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56TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { DOC. NO. 175, Part 3.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

FOR

THE YEAR 1899.

PART III.

Monthly Bulletins, July to December, 1899, Inclusive,
Nos. 70–75, Vol. VII.

DECEMBER 10, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Printing and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1900.

Per
AR1.6:7

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. JULY, 1899. No. 1.

APPOINTMENT OF W. W. ROCKHILL AS PERMANENT DIRECTOR.

Gen. RUSSELL HASTINGS, of Massachusetts, having been appointed permanent Director of the Bureau of the American Republics on March 20, 1899, and having resigned before assuming charge of the Bureau, as noted in the April number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, the Hon. W.W. ROCKHILL, late United States Minister to Greece, was appointed to succeed him by the Secretary of State of the United States, under the authority conferred upon him by the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics on the 7th of April, 1899.

Mr. ROCKHILL entered upon the discharge of his duties on May 20, 1899.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

TRADE RETURNS—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, FIRST QUARTER 1899.

Mr. ERNESTO DANVERS, special correspondent of the "Weekly Northwestern Miller," writes an interesting article to that journal (page 1147) from Buenos Ayres, under date of May 5, 1899, from which the following facts are culled:

Congress met on May 1, and the result of the President's speech (a summary of which is published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, page 2145) was to send the gold premium up about ten points, but at the date of Mr. DANVERS'S letter the market had regained its ordinary calmness and the premium had again fallen. The writer stated that

the National Bank proposes to build up a large gold reserve and that a fixed rate will be decreed by Congress for changing the paper currency into gold, which rate is expected to be between 230 and 250.

In the commercial returns for the first quarter of the current year the imports amount to $29,821,072, gold, an increase of $3,740,876 over the corresponding period of 1898. The exports in the same time amount to $47,532,893, an increase of $3,562,088. The trade of Argentina with the United States shows an increase of $1,616,664, gold, in imports, but a decrease of $158,211 in exports. The imports of agricultural machinery were as follows: Plows, 14,399; shellers, 466; sickles, 14 tons; horse rakes, 918; reapers and binders, 53; other reapers, 1,117; threshers, 4; their total value being $356,112, gold, an increase of $286,000 as compared with the same period in 1898.

The agricultural products exported were: Wheat, 364,372 tons, valued at $9,182,167, gold, an increase of 16,107 tons, but a decrease in value of $1,962,312; flax, 905 tons, valued at $3,090,777, a decrease of 4,866 tons and $69,664 in valuation; flour, 8,439 tons, valued at $354,457, an increase of 1,786 tons and of $61,835; bran, 12,303 tons, valued at $151,311, an increase of 5,244 tons and of $75,790.

On May 1, 1898, wheat was quoted in the Rio market at $12.50 per 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds), against $5.20 on the same date in 1899. For the same dates flax was $10 and $7.20, respectively, per 100 kilograms. The gold premium on May 1, 1899, was 132, against 164 on May 1, 1898.

From the "Review of the River Plate" (Buenos Ayres, May 13) the following statistics with regard to the imports and exports of the Argentine Republic for the first quarter of 1899 have been obtained:

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Great Britain	$11,383,548	$4,674,386
Italy	3,698,244	1,223,826
Germany	3,685,693	9,387,003
United States	3,513,086	1,553,968
France	2,827,638	11,910,470
Belgium	2,507,327	6,536,455
Brazil	1,040,970	1,713,048
Spain	645,742	354,823
Paraguay	292,607	52,997
Uruguay	129,607	734,643
Holland	27,356	120,139
Portugal	23,733	9,407
Chile	19,082	123,011
Bolivia	7,566	112,881
West Indies	4,275	52,438
Other countries	14,598	2,107,770
Orders		6,865,628
Total	29,821,072	47,532,893

NEW GOVERNMENTAL BUREAU.

The Bureau of the American Republics is informed by circular that there has recently been established in Buenos Ayres a bureau to be known as the "Demographic Bureau of the Republics," as a dependency of the Minister of the Interior. The duties of this Bureau are to

collect the demographic statistics of the capital, Territories, and Provinces, taking as a basis the data of the second national census; to draw up the forms for the collection of statistics; to distribute to the civil registrar of the capital, Governors of Territories, and Provinces the printed forms upon which are to be recorded monthly the recapitulations of the births, marriages, and deaths, with all the details necessary for a better understanding and study of such antecedents; to collect all statistics and forms and prepare general statements; to publish periodically the data so collected and compiled in a bulletin to be known as the "Boletin Demográfico Nacional" (National Demographic Bulletin); to collect and form a library of the demographic data published in the Republic.

This Bulletin will at the beginning be published as the data is forthcoming, and later on at regular periods, probably quarterly, until it can be published monthly. Until a special edition of this bulletin can be published in foreign languages for distribution in countries where Spanish is not spoken, the numerical statements will have headings in Spanish and French. It will be distributed gratis to all departments or bureaus as an exchange for their publications, to the public press, and also to writers and scientists, native and foreign, who have more especially devoted themselves to demographic and economic studies.

DEPOSITS OF BORAX, BORATE OF SODA, AND BORATE OF LIME.

In a communication published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, June 1, 1899, the French Vice-Consul at Rosario says:

Very rich deposits of borax, borate of soda, and borate of lime are found in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, and Acatama, on the Chilean frontier; but as the development of these ores is still in its infancy, having been begun two years ago at the most, the commercial results of the exploitation are as yet unknown. The exports of these products in 1898 were limited to 114,000 kilograms, representing a value of about 28,500 francs (about $5,700).

An important English syndicate was recently organized under the name of "The Borax Consolidated Company," with headquarters at London, for the purchase of all the deposits in these provinces. The capital of this company amounts to £1,400,000, divided into 80,000 ordinary shares of £10 each and 60,000 preferred shares, enjoying an immediate discount of 5½ per cent, the selling price of the latter being held also at £10.

In addition the company has a capital of £1,000,000 in bonds, so it can dispose at will of a capital of 60,000,000 francs. The borates of this country are rated as first-class in the European commercial centers.

The mining regions are directly connected without transshipment with the port of Rosario by the Northern Central Railroad, which already extends to the vicinity of the mines, and these will soon be crossed by the extension of the Bolivian line, passing by the defiles of Humahuaca and Taureau.

A company has been formed at Rosario, in view of the near exploitation of the mines, to take charge of the receiving, storing, and shipment of these ores at the fixed price of 1 piaster per ton (about $0.50), according to the rate of exchange of Argentine paper money.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AT ENTRE RIOS.

The administration of Dr. ECHAGÜE, Governor of the Province of Entre Rios, recently determined to establish two practical schools for instruction in agriculture and cattle raising, to be founded, one at Victoria and the other in the Department of Nogoyá, in the model colony known as "La Llave."

Both of these schools will be under the charge of Benedictine Fathers, who have gained a great reputation in France for teaching young men in the two branches of industry named. The course of study will embrace theoretical and practical instruction in all the modern methods of soil treatment, sowing, etc., and practical lessons in the manufacture of butter, cheese, etc.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The exports from the United States to the Argentine Republic for ten months of the current fiscal year were $7,807,222, of which amount $1,378,034 represented the value of agricultural implements. It was expected that this year will exceed all others in exports of agricultural implements. In this connection it is interesting to note that a line of steamers to run direct from the port of New York to Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo is about to be put in operation, and that six steamers of about 6,000 tons capacity each are approaching completion for this service. For several years past the carrying trade between the United States and the River Plate countries, so far as relates to the flag of the former, has been conducted by sailing vessels.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Concessions for underground electric railway lines have recently been granted to English companies in the Argentine Republic, and a short time ago the "Allegemeine Elektricitats Gesellschaft" of Berlin applied to the Government for the construction of a network of underground electric line between Retiro and Constitución stations and Onca Station and Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Ayres. The shipments of electrical material to the Argentine Republic from New York for one week in July reached $27,027 in value.

THE WHEAT SURPLUS.

Estimates from the Argentine Republic on the wheat crop surplus remaining for export range from 8,000,000 bushels to 16,000,000 bushels.

BRAZIL.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIES IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

The State of Rio Grande do Sul forms the southeastern extremity of Brazil and lies between the State of Paraná on the north, the Uruguay River on the west, and the Republic of Uruguay on the south and southwest, while the Atlantic Ocean forms its eastern and southeastern boundary. According to the "Commercial Directory of the American Republics" (p. 255), it has an area of 91,309 square miles, with a population at the last national census (1895) of 880,878. The State lies wholly within the south tropical zone, extending from 28° 9′ to 33° 41′ south. The principal products are beans, wheat, cotton, onions, rye, barley, oats, wine, and fruits peculiar to the temperate zone. The principal industry of the river districts is stock raising. At one time a large quantity of wheat was raised in this State, but owing to some disease its culture has been greatly curtailed. There are mines of gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, and coal. The São Jeronimo coal mines produce from 11,000 to 12,000 tons per year.

According to the report of Mr. THOMAS WORTHINGTON (England), "Special Commissioner appointed by the National Board of Trade to inquire into and report on the conditions and prospects of British trade in certain South American countries," the capital of the State, Porto Alegre, had about 90,000 inhabitants in December, 1898. This is the most important town in Brazil south of São Paulo. It is situated 30 miles from the mouth of the river Guahyba, at the north end of Lago Dos Patos. Other cities are Pelotas, with 30,000 inhabitants, a few miles up the Gonçaldes River from the south end of the same lake, and Jaquarão, some miles up the river of the same name, which runs into Lago Miron. All these cities are connected by steamers with the port of Rio Grande do Sul, containing 20,000 inhabitants, through which all the foreign trade, except that of Uruguay, passes. One feature of the State in its development is the number of European colonies. The most important are the German colonies in the Hamburgher district, the population of which is estimated at 110,000, and the Italian colonies in the Caxias district, with a population of 100,000. As a railway center, Porto Alegre is destined to become of great importance. The Porto Alegre and Uruguayan Railway has been leased by the Federal Government to the Sud-Ouest Brazilian Railway, and a concession has been granted for the building of a line to Caxias.

From Mr. WORTHINGTON'S report, which was published by the British Government in May, 1899, the following facts with reference to the commerce of the State have been obtained. The total foreign imports through the cities of Port Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, and Pelotas is estimated by the banks of these cities at not more than

£2,500,000 yearly. The buying power of the country has been decreased for a time by the low prices of agricultural products and by the destruction of the cattle during a local revolution a few years ago, from the effects of which the country is only now beginning to recover. The foreign merchants are principally Germans. The usual terms of payment in Porto Alegre are called six months, less 4 per cent in the dry goods trade—that is, the account made up, with 4 per cent deducted, is paid six months from the end of the month in which the sale is made, and a month's grace is given after that. In the hardware trade the terms are always understood to be cash. Accounts are made up at the end of the month, with 10 per cent deducted, and are supposed to be paid on the 15th of the following month. If payment be made within a week or two later, the discount is reduced at the rate of 1 per cent per month. Certain articles, however, are sold on this basis, but without any discount, the price being net. This includes tin plates, galvanized-iron sheets, wire, petroleum, rosin, and flour. Some houses which sell hardware throughout the interior have established for that trade a basis of four months, less 10 per cent, with an additional 1 per cent per month for earlier payments, making 14 per cent discount for cash.

As regards freight, Rio Grande do Sul markets are much in favor of German shippers, who have two lines of specially built steamers running from Hamburg. English goods have to be transshipped either at Hamburg to these steamers or at Rio de Janeiro to national coast steamers. The German route is especially preferred in case of rough goods. Goods arriving in the coasting steamers are unloaded at once in any kind of weather and the first lighters available, involving an increased custom-house store rent, transshipment, and additional lighter freight.

The largest national industries in the State are the "Xarqueadas," or jerked-beef establishments, from which are sent out jerked beef, salted hides, tallow, neats-foot oil, bone ash, etc. The jerked beef is put up in 60-kilogram bales for shipment to other parts of Brazil packed in "hessians" made in the port of Rio Grande do Sul, but sewn with Dundee twine. The salt comes mostly from Cadiz. Two-thirds of the hides are exported, the remainder being sold to local tanneries. The total number of cattle killed at Pelotas in 1898 was 214,000 head, while for the rest of the State there were probably 100,000 additional. Before the local revolution referred to the figures were nearly double this.

There are two cotton mills situated on the railway at the port of Rio Grande do Sul. One of these, although called a Brazilian company, is practically an Italian concern, having its spinning mill at Genoa, Italy, from whence it obtains all the yarns (colored) used. The machinery is all Italian and includes 200 looms for making 130-centimeter cotton goods. The product is mainly good-class trouserings;

a small quantity of narrow goods is made. The 300 operatives are Italian, brought out under contract, the weavers being paid by the piece. The other mill referred to manufactures both woolen and cotton goods, having 200 looms for cotton, making coarse colored goods. The principal hosiery factory is at Porto Alegre; the machinery in this is mostly German, but the yarn is imported in part from England and partly from Germany. The principal products are socks and stockings, of which about 300 dozen pairs is the daily output. There are about 110 European operatives. The Rio Grande do Sul woolen mill has 120 looms for wool, which, with the other machinery, is of English manufacture. This factory, wool and cotton together, employs from 900 to 1,000 operatives. Besides cloth, ponchos, blankets, etc., it also makes shapes for wool hats, which are finished at Pelotas. At the wool factory at Porto Alegre there are 70 spinning frames, with 360 spindles each, and 75 looms, which are mostly from Germany.

The annual consumption of wool is about 200,000 kilograms, equivalent to 100,000 kilograms of yarn, and about 100,000 kilograms of imported yarn from Germany is also consumed yearly. Its largest products are cashmeres, military cloth, fancy and common blankets, and ponchos. The operatives number from 130 to 250 and are mostly of European blood. At Pelotas there is a hat factory equipped with English, German, and American machinery. The output is 600 hats daily, 90 per cent of which are made from English and German rabbit hair. At Rio Grande do Sul there is a "hessian" mill (mill for making a certain kind of coarse sacking from jute). The monthly output is 200 bales of 10 pieces, each bale containing 1,000 meters. There are several comparatively important foundries and iron works. The one at Porto Alegre uses annually about 150 tons and the one at Rio Grande do Sul very much less, but small steam engines, from 3 to 4 horsepower, can be made at both places. At Porto Alegre a small iron steamer was built in 1898, which is stated to have proven a success. The machinery is mostly of German make.

The usual consumption of tin plate in the canning factories is estimated at 24,000 cases annually. One-third of the importations is used for various purposes, such as canning coffee and tobacco, etc., for the interior, and for making various kinds of utensils; the remaining two-thirds is required for the manufacture of lard cans. At Pelotas and Rio Grande do Sul there are some fruit-canning industries which are fitted, for the most part, with German machinery. In addition to fruit, they put up fried fish, pork, and other meats, which are sent to the northern States of Brazil. The total output is from 800,000 to 1,000,000 cans of all kinds, the larger part being fruits, chiefly peaches and pears. About 140 operatives are employed regularly, but the number is larger in the fruit season.

At the time of Mr. WORTHINGTON'S report the lard industry was under a cloud, owing to the local refineries having spoiled their own

market in Rio by mixing too much water in the product; consequently Rio merchants have turned to the United States for their supply of this article. There are two glass factories at Porto Alegre and one at Pelotas. Only one of the former is in operation, and its product only amounts at present to from £2,000 to £4,000 per annum. The works are under English control, and supply a good grade of lamp chimneys and manufacture fruit or flower stands and soda-water bottles with ball stoppers, employing 40 operatives. The soap and tallow-candle factory at Pelotas is equipped for turning out annually 500,000 kilograms of common soap, which sells at prices varying from 200 to 500 reis per kilogram. The daily output of tallow candles is about 60 boxes of 15 kilograms each. In connection with this factory there is a complete installation of Dutch butter machinery. The supply of milk from the neighborhood is good, and the factory turns out the butter in tins made and lithographed on its own premises. Oleomargarine is also manufactured at this place. In addition, glue is made from the nerves and sinews of the cattle and neatsfoot oil is extracted from their bones. The machinery used is nearly all of German manufacture.

In Pelotas there is a successful boot and shoe factory, containing German, American, and English machinery. The sole leather and enameled cowhide used are of national manufacture, the other leathers being mostly French, with some English. Elastic cloth is brought from England and the linen thread is of French make. About 140 persons are employed, and the product is about 400 pairs daily, which are all sold in the State. A biscuit factory has been recently established at Rio Grande do Sul. When in full force about 160 operatives are employed. The tins for incasing the product are manufactured by twelve women and boys who, with the aid of machinery, turn out about 2,000 boxes per day. There are several important breweries in the principal ports, besides smaller ones throughout the country, all of them working on the German plan. The hops and malt both come from Germany. At Rio Grande do Sul there is a flour mill under English management, equipped with English machinery, which works constantly and turns out 1,000 quarter sacks (about 22 kilograms each) daily. A match factory is erected on the railway from Porto Alegre to Novo Hamburgo, which turns out a limited quantity of matches for home consumption.

TRADE IN LEATHER.

An interesting article is published in the "Moniteur Officiel," Paris, in its issue of May 11, prepared by Mr. GEORGE RITT, French Consul at Rio de Janeiro, on the trade in leather and leather articles in Brazil.

From this it appears that while France formerly had almost a monopoly of this trade, with Great Britain and Austria as its strongest competitors, recently Germany and the United States have secured such a foothold that the French imports have decreased considerably. During the first six months of 1898 the German port of Hamburg shipped

to Brazil 141,000 kilograms (310,848.6 pounds) of leather and leather goods, including 40,000 kilograms (88,184 pounds) of shoes, worth in all about 2,000,000 francs ($386,000). During the same period the shipments from New York amounted to 391 cases of leather articles and 714 bales of prepared skins, as against 378 cases and 256 bales of the same articles in the entire year of 1897.

The shipments from England decreased to some extent. During the first six months of 1898 the value of the receipts of leather and leather goods from Great Britain, including £20,000 in shoes, amounted to £38,000 ($184,908), as against £61,000 in shoes and £23,000 in other leather goods, a total of £84,000 ($408,744) for the year 1897.

Mr. RITT says that the introduction of prepared hides and skins has become very important since the growth of the local industry, which now manufactures from United States imports articles which were formerly received in a manufactured condition from abroad. In 1894, Rio de Janeiro alone imported prepared hides and skins having a total weight of 529,208 kilograms, valued at 4,500,000 francs ($868,500). In this total France is represented by 351,564 kilograms, while the English products do not exceed 94,956 kilograms, Germany and Austria 75,132 kilograms, and North America 8,288 kilograms. At present the imports of prepared hides and skins for the entire Republic exceed 1,300,000 kilograms, of which 800,000 kilograms are for Rio alone. The shipments from France, which formerly represented from 60 to 65 per cent of the total, to-day form a little more than 40 to 50 per cent.

It appears that one of the French specialties—waxed and varnished calfskins—has suffered more than any other branch of leather goods, because of the competition with a similar product from Hamburg and the "vaquette" of New York, which offer the advantage of cheapness.

The duties on prepared hides and skins, according to the article quoted, are as follows: Skins—beaver, seal, and ermine, 7,600 reis (1,000 reis, or 1 milreis, equals 54.6 cents in United States currency) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds); other skins, not specified, 2,500 reis per kilogram; natural prepared hides—"vaquette," 1,800 reis per kilogram; morocco, 2,200 reis per kilogram; not specified, natural color, 1,400 reis per kilogram; not specified, colored, 2,200 reis; "varnished and waxed hides"—Russian grained calfskins, 6,000 reis; smooth Russian grained calfskins and all other smooth or grained calfskins, 3,000 reis per kilogram.

Most of the leather trunks, bags, satchels, etc., come from France. The local manufacturers construct, more or less crudely, valises and trunks, covered with natural skins, on which the hair remains. Both at Rio de Janeiro and Santos there are a number of shoe factories which are conducted quite successfully, many of them being worked by steam.

The manufacture of shoes has become a national industry, consequently the importation of fine footwear is becoming more and more limited. The sale of native shoes, moreover, is favored by the customs

regulations, which require foreign importations to pay heavy duties, in some instances representing more than 60 per cent of the value of the article. These duties are as follows: Boots, 15,000 to 20,000 reis per pair, according to size and quality; shoes, 3,000 to 7,000 reis per pair; low shoes or slippers, 1,700 to 3,200 reis; sandals and bedroom slippers, 700 to 1,400 reis. Besides these import duties, a tax has been levied indiscriminately on both foreign and domestic shoes since January 1, 1899. This tax, ranging from 11 cents to $0.546, according to quality, requires the placing of a stamp on each pair of shoes.

According to the customs statistics for 1894, the latest available, the entries of foreign shoes into Rio de Janeiro were 996,926 pairs, valued at 4,500,000 francs ($868,500).

Harness and saddlery are manufactured in the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Minas Geraes. These are mounted in silver, are very much appreciated in the country, and are sometimes of very great value. Most of the harness for draft horses and for use in private and street carriages are imported.

FRENCH CONSUL'S ESTIMATE OF THE COFFEE CROP.

The "Moniteur Officiel" of Paris, in its issue for June 22, 1899, publishes the report to the French Government of Mr. DESMARTIS, Consul for France at Sao Paulo, on the production of coffee in Brazil and in the world. The figures given by this authority differ to some extent from those heretofore published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN (see Vol. VI, pp. 48, 592, 1419, 1575, and 1939), and, contrary to the opinion of other writers quoted, Mr. DESMARTIS believes there will be no diminution in the coffee production of Brazil for several years at least. The following items are taken from his report:

During the year 1897 the total value of the exports of Brazil arose to 831,806,918 milreis, and of this amount, coffee, the principal resource of Brazil, counts for 509,190,000 milreis, or about five eighths of the entire exports.

The exports of rubber, which comes immediately after in order of importance, only figure for 149,691,325 milreis, or about one-sixth of the exports. All of this goes to show that coffee is now and for a long time will be the principal source of the revenue of this Republic.

The state of São Paulo, in particular, which twenty-five years ago scarcely furnished 700,000 bags of 60 kilograms each, produced in 1897 about 5,500,000 bags, and about a third of its plants had not, according to the statement of the bureau of statistics of the capital, begun to yield. In view of the fact that the coffee tree begins to yield about the fourth or fifth year and does not cease producing until about the fifteenth year, it follows that there will be an increase for a number of years to come, even supposing that the planters do not renew their plantations in the near future. According to statistics which seem reliable, the production of coffee in Brazil in 1875–76 amounted to 3,505,000 bags of 60 kilograms, while that of the whole world was

7,185,000 bags, the proportion being 48½ per cent. From that time on to 1890 the production increased gradually, with the exception of the year 1887–88, when the Brazilian coffee crop fell to 3,006,000 bags, and that of the world to 7,077,000 bags, causing a considerable rise in price. In the year 1890–91 the total production of the world amounted to 9,297,000 bags, of which Brazil furnished 5,308,000 bags, and in 1896–97 this Republic furnished 8,680,000 bags of the world's production of 12,608,000 bags, or 68 per cent.

According to estimates, the production of Brazil for 1897–98 was 9,900,000 bags, and the world's production 13,760,000 bags, or 72 per cent; in 1898–99, Brazil produced 9,400,000 bags, out of a total of 13,265,000 bags, or 71 per cent. The average production of the world for the last three years has been 13,211,000 bags.

Thus, during a period of a little more than twenty years the production of Brazil rose from 48 per cent of the entire production to 71 or 72 per cent, while the total production almost doubled itself.

The largest crop attained in Brazil was in 1897–98, when it rose to 9,900,000 bags, and it is asserted that this figure is below the actual production, which amounted really to 10,500,000 bags.

According to estimates made, the production of the world for 1898–99, excepting Brazil, will be, in all probability, 8,865,000 bags of 60 kilograms, while in 1897–98 the production was 3,860,000 bags, and 3,928,000 bags in 1896–97.

While the general production of coffee has increased about 26 per cent in less than twenty-five years (9,297,000 bags in 1871 to 12,608,000 in 1897), the consumption has by no means remained stationary, and the same tendency toward increase can be observed, although in proportions slightly different.

During the same period the consumption rose from 8,546,898 to 10,388,700 bags, or an increase of about 18 per cent on the total consumption. Taking into consideration the fact that only the consumption of the largest markets is considered, and that a great amount of the stock is in storehouses or en route to different places, it will be seen that the production and consumption follow about the same lines, although the average of the crops for the three years, 13,211,000 bags, has not been reached.

The consumption of the great markets of Europe, to wit: Germany, England, Austria, Belgium, France, Switzerland, during the seven years, 1891–97, amounted to 32,649,989 bags, and the consumption of the United States during the same periods to 31,124,412 bags, the average consumption for the seven years being 9,110,626 bags.

ELECTRICAL PROGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

In a communication to his Government, published in a French journal of June 15, the Consul of France at Rio de Janeiro says:

Up to the present moment, at least, the United States and German houses have been exclusively engaged in organizing in the large centers of Brazil the installa-

tion of electrical machinery and apparatus necessary to the service of electric lighting, the transportation of street cars, and the motive power of certain industries.

The oldest one of these electrical companies actually established at Rio is the "General Electric Company," a United States company, with branches in all the neighboring States, with a very large plant and capital at its disposal. It has for a long time, through its influence and importance of its clientele, dominated the market. To it is also due the establishment of the first telephones and a part of the electric cars of Battete and Santa Thereza. The Germans, however, have lost no time in entering into keen competition with this company. At first a German house, representing KRUPP & SCHUKER, succeeded in putting on the market for the German trade a large quantity of electrical apparatus and machinery, much desired and appreciated on account of their low prices, and in the last three years a new German house, encouraged by the success of the first one, has entered the market with a capital of 5,500,000 marks. This enterprise intends to buy up the electric car lines of Bahia and the telephone service of Rio. Another German company is desirous of obtaining possession of the street-car lines of Sao Christovao.

A new German electric company, entitled the "Brasilianische Elektrizitats Gesellschaft," has been formed in Brazil, and is authorized by a decree of April 7, 1899, published in the Diario Oficial, to operate in Brazil. This company, whose headquarters are in Berlin, and which has a capital of 5,000,000 marks, seems destined to absorb all the other German electrical companies, thus forming one large syndicate. The representatives of this syndicate are now negotiating for the purchase of the principal waterfalls near this capital, assuring to the projected enterprises all the necessary water-power facilities in the future.

A French house in Rio competes successfully with the Germans and North Americans, and furnished more than 6,000 of the 12,000 electric lamps used in the city of Petropolis.

Below is given, according to the customs statistics for the first two months of the present year (1899), the imports in Rio of those articles pertaining to electricity—machines, apparatus, brass wire, etc.

These articles do not figure in the general customs tariff under one heading, and it has been necessary to make the approximative list in referring to the figures of numbers 127, 178, and 186 of the tariff.

Electrical articles (apparatus, wire, material for apparatus and machinery) introduced on the market of Rio in January and February, 1899.

Countries.	Value.	United States equivalent.
	Francs.	
United States	55,000	$11,000
Germany	21,000	4,200
England	15,000	3,000
Belgium	8,000	1,600
France	2,500	500
Other countries	4,000	800
Total	105,500	21,100

In this connection it may be pertinent to say that the J. G. BRILL COMPANY, of Philadelphia (U. S. A.), has recently received an order for 130 electric street cars which are to be used on the São Paulo electric railroad, now under construction.

SCARCITY IN THE IPECACUANHA MARKET.

The "American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record," of June 26 (p. 341), contains an article entitled "Rio and Carthagena Ipecac." The first-named variety is well known to the drug trade of the United States, while the importation of the second is prohibited by the customs authorities. But the increasing scarcity of the Rio variety has directed attention to the Carthagena or New Granada root, which, in appearance, does not materially differ from the Brazilian root, excepting that the rings which characterize ipecac are less conspicuous.

It is in its physiological effects that the Carthagena ipecac is supposed to differ from the Brazilian variety, the former containing less "emetine" than the latter, and owing its activity more to the active principle "cephaline," which is understood to have a different action from that of emetine. * * * The prohibition of Carthagena ipecac is no doubt justifiable in view of the meager information in our possession regarding the physiological action of the drug as compared with Rio ipecac, on which the efficacy of ipecac as a therapeutic agent is based. * * * It is surprising * * * that physiological research to determine the action of cephaline, the alkaloid which distinguishes the Carthagena variety, has not been earlier undertaken. In this respect the history of the two varieties of ipecacuanha is in contrast with that of many other remedial agents which have been the subject of pharmacological study.

Ipecacuanha is a low, creeping, perennial plant growing wild in Brazil, having a faint, peculiar odor and a bitter, subacrid, nauseous taste, the root of which is largely used as an emetic. This root is small and wrinkled, being marked by regular protuberances or rings. Since the collection of rubber in Brazil has assumed such proportions, those who formerly occupied themselves with gathering and preparing roots for market have generally abandoned the latter occupation for the former, which is more profitable and less laborious. The result has been to greatly curtail the supply of ipecacuanha; in fact, practically none is now gathered. The possibility of an early scarcity of the drug was foreseen by United States dealers, who have now almost a monopoly of the market. Prices have been advancing steadily for ten years. In 1888 the price per pound was $1.25, but now it is $4.25. In view of the great increase in price the Brazilian gatherers might, for a time, find the gathering of ipecac a more profitable employment than the collection of rubber.

INAUGURATION OF A PERMANENT EXPOSITION.

From "O Paiz," of May 31, 1899, it is learned that the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro recently established a permanent exposition of the agricultural and natural products of Brazil on plans similar to the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia. The inaugural ceremonies took place on May 30 in one of the rooms of the spacious "Commercial Associations" building. Among those present were the American Minister, Col. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN and Mr. W. H.

SCHOFF, representative of the Commercial Museums of Philadelphia. The exhibits consist of specimens of the valuable woods of the country, coffee, sugar, cotton, corn, and maté, all carefully labeled and classified. Other natural products and samples of the manufactures of the Republic will be added from time to time.

HOSPITAL SHIP FOR EMPLOYEES.

From the "New York Tribune" of June 29, it is learned that the United States clipper bark *Jacob A. Stamler* is being fitted up as a hospital ship at Stapleton, Staten Island, N. Y. It is said that when the improvements are completed the ship will be taken to the coffee plantations owned by ARBUCKLE BROTHERS in Brazil for the reception of their employees who may be taken ill. The vessel is 175 feet in length, 39 feet beam, and 23.3 feet in depth, with a displacement of 1,000 tons, and was built in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1856.

CHILE.

COAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT RAILROADS.

The "Diario Oficial," or official gazette of Chile, has recently been publishing an advertisement calling for bids to furnish 40,000 tons of Australian coal—Wolsen, green label—for the use of the Government railways during this year. "El Mercurio," one of the leading newspapers of South America, published in Valparaiso, devotes considerable space to editorial comment upon this advertisement in its issue of May 19, 1899. The article is in part as follows:

> The first impression made by the reading of this advertisement is anything but favorable when one considers that Chile is essentially a coal-producing country, and consequently it was to be expected that the national industry should be sufficiently active to produce all the coal we need for our domestic consumption.
>
> It seems that this is not the case, since the Government railway enterprise, which now includes in its annual estimates an item of two and a half millions of pesos for the purchase of coal, has asked for bids for 40,000 tons from abroad.
>
> This is to say that the Government railways can not furnish themselves in the country with more than two-thirds of the coal they need for their use, and that the remaining third has to be secured abroad.

The article proceeds to state that it is very strange for a Government enterprise to overlook Chilean coal miners in calling for bids, thus preventing them from competing with foreign coal producers. It seems to the Chilean contemporary that Chilean producers should have been invited to appear and state whether or not they are able to supply these 40,000 tons, and it goes on to say:

> Should it result that the Government railway enterprise is asking for bids to supply foreign coal because the national mines really can not deliver with promptness

and regularity more than two-thirds of the fuel necessary for its annual consumption, this fact would suggest a very depressing thought regarding the capacity of our industry to supply our own consumption of articles with which nature has so bountifully endowed our soil. * * *

Some twenty-five years ago, about the year 1874 or 1875, the coal producers of our country entered upon an energetic campaign to have foreign coal burdened with import duties, it being alleged that the coal produced in Chile far exceeded the requirements of the domestic demand, and that foreign importations would ruin the Chilean miners, because an oversupply of coal would fatally affect its price.

It is patent that in those years the national production of coal sufficed for our consumption, since it was possible to reduce foreign importations in 1875 to 37,831 tons, while in 1896 they rose to 683,196 tons and in 1897 to 513,421 tons, which shows that our production of coal has not developed in harmony with the other industries and national enterprises which need this fuel to keep up their activity.

From these figures it is deduced that in the years 1874 and 1875 our coal industry was in a better condition to meet our industrial requirements than it is now, calling for an importation of 5,000,000 pesos at 38 pence, or annually more than 10,000,000 of our present gold pesos at 18 pence.

It thus became necessary to devise means to increase our coal production, and one of the means indicated in the premises is in the bill pending in the Senate declaring coal deposits situated in private lands "denounceable," conditioned upon the payment to the owner of the ground of a premium of some cents for each ton of coal taken out.

The article says that what is noticeable in the case of coal is also characteristic of other productions of the country which, despite the ease with which they can be developed, are not yet sufficiently exploited to fully meet the demands of home consumption, and cites a number of articles which were imported from abroad in the year 1897, although they could be easily produced in the country. These articles are: Cattle, animal fat, olive oil, Chile peppers, condensed milk, corn, tallow, coal, linseed oil, barley, lumber, and composition candles.

"El Mercurio" considers that all these articles should be produced in the country in sufficient quantity to fully meet the necessities of home consumption, and thinks that it is a far easier task to promote their production and compete at home with similar articles introduced from abroad than to be artificially promoting an export trade, and be compelled to pay freight, insurance, commissions, and customs duties in seeking a foreign market. By promoting the home production all the advantages would be on the side of Chile, because the foreign goods, burdened with all these charges, would have to encounter the rivalry of similar articles produced in Chile.

DECREASE IN THE IMPORT TRADE AT VALPARAISO.

A leading French journal, on April 27, 1899, published a communication from Mr. ROBIN, manager of the French consulate at Valparaiso, on the custom-house entries at this port and the causes of the decrease in the import trade.

The following table, published by the customs administration, gives the entries month by month for the last two years, showing that the

receipts at this port for 1898 were 2,090,311 piasters less than those for 1897:

Month.	1897.	1898.
	Piasters.	*Piasters.*
January	845,008.98	1,300,146.26
February	959,389.53	1,113,952.29
March	1,894,978.21	1,630,295.63
April	1,400,298.74	1,216,610.83
May	1,278,783.93	1,169,346.69
June	1,134,584.72	995,255.26
July	1,361,377.03	429,104.43
August	1,350,326.76	1,861,024.01
September	1,345,776.26	1,311,150.47
October	1,494,792.64	1,104,265.36
November	1,512,720.77	1,046,789.21
December	2,088,831.81	1,335,527.45
Total	16,666,824.38	14,576,512.89

The Chilean Government attributes this condition to two causes:

(1) The great amount of merchandise imported into Chile during the months of November and December, 1897, in order to avoid the payment of higher duties established by the new customs law which went into effect the 1st of January; and,

(2) The disturbance produced in the import trade during the month of last July by the closing of the banks, by the law of "delay" (moratoria), by the establishment of the forced circulation of paper money, and by the obligatory payment of the customs duties in gold.

No doubt these causes have contributed to the present unsatisfactory condition, but the real cause will be found in the high duties which the administration has established, and which, at the present time, are absolutely prohibitive for a great number of foreign products.

Since the month of July the import trade has been absolutely depressed. The custom-house wharf, which formerly was constantly filled with merchandise from abroad, is to-day scarcely busy three or four days a week. Vessels coming from Europe now only bring to Valparaiso a minimum freight. These facts are easily explained: The depreciation of the paper money decreases the buying power of the salaries and wages; the greater part of the population finds itself obliged to cut down its expenses.

From the above table it will be seen that the custom-house at Valparaiso collected up to June 30, 7,512,999 piasters in 1897, and 7,425,606 in 1898, so that the decrease of 2,090,311 piasters, which occurred in the entries for 1898, comes almost entirely from the receipts for the last six months, when the new issue of paper money took place.

Up to the present time everything indicates that the customs receipts for 1899 will be even less than those for the year just finished.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The latest advices from Chile are to the effect that considerable improvement is noticeable in the financial situation in that Republic. At the beginning of the present year exchange was at 12¼ pence and the price of gold at 144 per cent. At the end of May exchange fluctuated between 15 and 16 pence and the price of gold between 115 and 120 per cent. In January drafts on London payable in gold would only bring 17½ to 17¾ pence for each peso, while at the date mentioned 18¼ pence were obtainable for each peso, gold—that is to say, one-quar-

ter of a penny above par—which means gold can be no longer exported from Chile, but rather that it is advisable to import it.

"El Mercurio," of Valparaiso, under date of May 22, 1899, endeavors to discover the causes which have brought about this improvement, and among others mentions as the prime factor the rise in the price of copper, saying that it has been calculated that if the price is maintained during the year 1899 around £70 per ton, even should the production not increase during this period, the rise in price alone would give the Chilean market something like £600,000 to £700,000 more than in the year 1898. This fact alone suffices to greatly improve the financial situation. Another potent factor contributing to this better state of affairs is that the imports for 1897 exceeded the exports by 1,589,698 pesos, while in 1898 the reverse was the case—the exports exceeded the imports by 65,807,373 pesos.

The newspaper cited gives other reasons which are of a domestic nature and have no international bearing upon the case, and feels gratified that the economic situation should have improved merely through the ordinary course of events.

REPORT OF THE ANTOFAGASTA AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY.

The report of the directors of the Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway for the year ended December 31, 1898, states that the working of the line was conducted with regularity throughout the year. The gross receipts were $5,611,863. The company's percentage of the proceeds has been converted month by month into pounds sterling at the average exchange, which for the year was about 15⅝, and amounts to £160,506. To this must be added the net receipts of the waterworks, £4,623, making a total of £165,129. The decreased receipts, as compared with 1897, is mainly attributable to the fall in exchange. The service of the debenture stock, the 6 per cent dividend on the capital stock, and the administration expenses amounted to £172,643. Of the gross receipts, the amount arising from the traffic of the Huanchaca Company was $2,063,525, or 36.77 per cent, the balance of $3,548,338, or 63.23 per cent, being from the general public. The approximate receipts of the railway from January 1 to April 30 of the year 1899 were $2,333,000, as compared with $1,525,000 in the same period of 1898. The returns for the month of March were the largest yet obtained. With a view of improving the water supply, the directors have decided that it is advisable to carry out as soon as possible the work of extending the piping referred to in previous reports as being necessary, and they are in negotiation with the Huanchaca Company on the subject.

DEMAND FOR COPPER PROPERTIES.

The recent rise in the value of copper has called the attention of speculators to Chile, where vast quantities of the metal are known to exist. Advices received in the United States are to the effect that

abandoned mines have been reopened in that Republic, and that many of those that were filled are being pumped out, while there is a number of mines on the market for sale. Chile's sources of wealth are many, and her vast deposits of borate of lime and sulphur are inviting attention. A short time ago a syndicate was formed at Pisagua to develop and work some of these deposits, though the lack of railway communication with the interior militates somewhat against the undertaking. The boom in mines in this advanced southern Republic will lead to railroad construction, which will replace animal transportation in many localities.

COLOMBIA.

A NEW TELEGRAPH CABLE.

The Government of Colombia has made a contract with a foreign company granting it the right to lay and work a submarine telegraph cable between the port of Rio Hacha, Department of Magdalena, and Colon, connecting with the ports of Santa Marta, Colombia, and Cartagena. All these ports are on the Atlantic side. The company binds itself to open the cable to public service within eighteen months from the date of approval of the said contract. The Government reserves the right of censor over messages sent by the line in time of war, and it is further stipulated that, pursuant to the laws of the country, only Colombian courts shall have jurisdiction over questions arising between the Government and the concessionaire.

NEW RAILROADS.

A contract has been signed by the Minister of the Treasury of Colombia and Don PABLO PINZON for the construction of a railroad to connect the district of Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui, in the Department of Panama. The work is to be completed within ten years and the concessionaire is to receive from the Government a subsidy of 5,000 pesos per kilometer. Work on the Cauca railroad is actively progressing, and with financial aid from the Government it is said the road could be carried as far as El Valle within the next four years.

SILKWORM AND YERBA MATÉ INDUSTRIES.

Señor ELADIO FERRER, of Cartagena, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that he is at present engaged in promoting the silkworm industry in Colombia, and that his interest in yerba maté has been aroused through recent articles on the subject in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. He has urged the Minister of the Interior to request the Government of Brazil to send samples of the plant to Colombia, with a view to domesticating the culture of the product.

SALT MONOPOLY AWARDED.

The Minister of the Treasury has granted to Señor RICARDO ARIAS the right to work the deposits of sea salt existing in the Department of Panama, conditioned upon the payment to the national treasury of a duty of 37.9 cents for each 12½ kilograms (27.56 pounds) of salt taken out. It is claimed that this concession constitutes an absolute monopoly in behalf of the concessionaire.

EXPOSITION AT BOGOTÁ.

On July 20 an exposition was opened at Bogota, comprising six sections: Literature, art, industry, instruction, agriculture, and floriculture. A credit of $10,000 has been placed for the purpose at the disposal of a board of directors composed of Señores MANUEL ANTONIO ANGEL, MARTINEZ SILVA, GARAY and CASIANO SALCEDO.

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

Advices from Cartagena are to the effect that two parties of prospectors under Mr. HAYWOOD and Mr. HENRY B. GRANGER have recently gone to the Atrato River for the purpose of taking out gold from the sand in its bed.

WATER SUPPLY AT BOGOTÁ.

The question of furnishing a water supply for Bogotá has again been revived, and an English engineer will shortly leave London for the purpose of looking over the ground and preparing plans for the carrying into effect of this improvement.

BOUNDARY LINE SURVEY.

The work of surveying the boundary line between Colombia and Venezuela, pursuant to the arbitration award of the Queen Regent of Spain, will soon begin, a commission of engineers being named for the purpose by each Government.

CUBA.

THE OUTLOOK FOR SUGAR.

Reports from the island are to the effect that in the Province of Havana and the eastern parts of the Province of Pinar del Rio the crop conditions are fairly satisfactory. The sugar cane crops are vigorous, although the rains have been neither general nor copious. The drought still continues in the central and extreme western portions of Pinar del Rio. Local estimates give the sugar crop at Sagua la Grande for the year as 200,000 sacks.

PRODUCTION OF PINEAPPLES AND BANANAS.

Indications point to a largely increased production of pineapples and bananas in the near future in Cuba. Several parties from the United States have gone into the fruit raising industry on the island during the past six months, although it is the opinion of experts that it will take many months yet to build up the plantations devastated by the recent insurrection.

SHIPMENTS OF MERCHANDISE.

The total value of general merchandise shipped from New York for Cuba for the week ending July 5 was $204,484. It is claimed by competent judges that the exports of manufactured goods for Cuba will average a weekly value of half a million dollars during the month of July.

DUTCH WEST INDIES.

THE COLONY OF CURAÇAO.

The "Monthly Illustrator," of New York, for June, 1899, contains an interesting article handsomely illustrated, written by Mr. WILLIAM BENEDICT REILLY, on Curaçao, Dutch West Indies. The Dutch colony of Curaçao includes the islands of that name, the adjacent islands of Aruba and Bonaire, the two islands of the Windward group, some 600 miles to the northeast, known as Saba and St. Eustatius, a part of the island of St. Martins, also of the Windward group.

The seat of government and the residence of the Governor is at Curaçao. The Governor is appointed by the Dutch Crown and has a council of twelve members, called the "Colonial Court," who are also appointed by the Crown upon nomination by the Governor. From this court the Governor selects three members who constitute an advisory council. There is also a judicial court which consists of one presiding judge, and two assistants appointed by the King and one assistant appointed by the Governor.

The port is Curaçao and import duties are merely nominal. The chief revenue is derived from export duties, and the revenues from phosphate exports have for years been the chief support of the colony. Curaçao has a population of about 30,000 people, only about 4,000 of whom are white. On account of the dryness of the atmosphere and the equability of the temperature the climate is especially favorable for persons suffering from pulmonary and bronchial troubles and rheumatism.

Curaçao is a point touched by the "Red D Line" of steamers, which is composed entirely of United States ships having the mail contract between the ports of New York and La Guaira, Venezuela. The principal commodities exported from the country are phosphate rock, salt,

divi-divi, aloes, orange peel, goatskins, peanuts, and straw hats. The bulk of its provisions and a goodly share of all its other lines of merchandise, especially shoes, hardware, machinery, and agricultural implements, are imported from the United States. The value of all the merchandise imported during 1896 was $1,185,066; for 1897 it was about the same.

ECUADOR.

CUSTOM-HOUSE RETURNS OF SHOE IMPORTS.

Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, Consul-General of the United States at Guayaquil, on April 24 sent a report to the Department of State at Washington on the shoe trade of Ecuador. This was in response to inquiries from the board of trade of one of the cities of the State of Massachusetts.

The total value of the footwear of leather imported by Ecuador during 1897 was $92,275 silver, or $41,431.47 gold, valuing the peso or silver dollar at 44.9 cents gold. In 1898 the imports were less than half those of the previous year, $42,692 silver, or $17,973.34 gold, valuing the peso at 42.1 cents.

In 1897 the import value (gold) of shoes from the United States was $10,973.11; in 1898 the total was $2,645.99. The greater part of the imports—$21,637.31 gold—in 1897 was from France, but the importations from that country declined to $3,523.35 in 1898. England furnished $6,182.28 worth in 1897 and $9,358.14 in 1898; Germany, $2,077.52 in 1897 and $1,254.58 in 1898; Belgium, $22.45 in 1897 and $210.50 in 1898; Peru, $538.80 in 1897 and nothing in 1898; Spain, nothing in 1897 and $980.51 in 1898.

Mr. DE LEON says duties are charged on the gross weight of the packages at the rate of $1.67 (silver) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds) equal to 72.5 cents in United States currency, taking the value of the peso at the figures given by the Director of the United States Mint, April 1, 1899, 43.4 cents gold. The Consul says there is no prejudice against United States products, and the shoes are considered of higher grade and cost a little more than the shoes from other countries. Imported shoes are retailed at from $3.50 to $8 gold per pair, according to finish. A number of prominent firms in Ecuador carry small lines of shoes of United States manufacture. A New York salesman is credited with having recently received a large order in Guayaquil, and as expressing his surprise at the ease with which it was obtained. Mr. DE LEON states that the merchants of Guayaquil "are exceptionally substantial, and representatives of American firms who have visited this country find results very satisfactory. They would be much more so were our commerce not handicapped by excessive freight rates via the Isthmus, double and triple those from Europe. An 'Isthmian canal' is the only 'open sesame' to trade on this coast."

Competent salesmen are advised to visit Ecuador "in order to obtain knowledge of requirements and scope of trade." Catalogues and other printed matter are valueless unless printed in the Spanish language, with the values of the goods expressed in the money of the country.

RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

Consul-General DE LEON, writing to a Kansas correspondent, under date of Guayaquil, May 2, 1899, says the field for American enterprise, capital, and modern machinery, once transportation facilities are provided, can not possibly be better. The foothills of the Andes are especially adapted to sheep raising on a large scale. In the warm districts cotton grows wild and coffee is of the finest grade; sugar cane will thrive on the lands now covered by forest at the base of the Andes. The supply of water power is abundant; timber is scarce, but the contemplated railway to Quito will place the interior in easy communication with the vast forests of the Pacific slope. The fuel supply is deficient, although rich veins of coal and petroleum wells are reported from the undeveloped sections of the country. The temperature of the inter-Andean region varies according to the locality. In 1896 there were but 28 days of the year which were not partially cloudy. Rain fell on 170 days and the temperature varied 45°. Seismic phenomena are not infrequent, and houses are built with a view to this emergency. Near Quito the land is said to be held at $100 an acre, but there are vast tracts along the proposed railway which can be purchased at reasonable figures. Those contemplating purchases should first make a personal investigation.

PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM EUROPE.

Señor MIGUEL ANGEL CARBO, Consul-General of Ecuador at Paris, has been instructed by his Government to secure in Europe teachers of both sexes for the public schools of Ecuador.

AGRICULTURAL AND BANKING ASSOCIATION.

Several land owners and capitalists of Ecuador have formed an association with a capital of 1,000,000 sucres for the purpose of developing the agricultural industry and founding an agricultural bank.

GUATEMALA.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF TOBACCO CULTURE.

The Government of Guatemala, recognizing that the principal source of wealth of the nation is agriculture, and that one of the articles to the cultivation of which the eastern towns have devoted themselves is tobacco, and that restrictive legislation has prevented the development

of this industry, has promulgated a law to the effect that from and after the 1st day of July next the sowing, cultivation, and elaboration of domestic tobacco shall be free from all tax, national or municipal. Imported or domestic tobacco leaf or manufactured, shall only be sold in shops thereunto authorized, which shall pay a monthly license of from 5 to 20 pesos, according to the importance of the locality in which they are established. The exportation of leaf or manufactured tobacco is free; imported tobacco should be taken to customs warehouses and may remain there one month without being subject to storage dues; at the expiration of the month the dues shall be 1 cent per pound per month, and if the tobacco is not withdrawn within sixty days it will be sold at auction to cover duties and storage dues, the surplus being turned over to the owner. Imported leaf tobacco shall pay 1 peso per pound, gross weight; imported manufactured tobacco, in whatsoever form, 2 pesos per pound including weight of package.

ADDITIONS TO THE FREE LIST.

Under date of June 9, 1899, the President of Guatemala promulgated a decree which is intended to encourage and protect agriculture. By the said decree the following articles are declared to be admitted into the country free of duty, namely: Plows and loose parts, mattocks and hoes, barbed wire and its accessories, pruning hooks and knives, scythes, axes, ordinary machetes or cane knives, without any steel in their composition; machinery for rice, coffee, sugar cane, lumber, and wheat; iron or tin molds of all kinds for the manufacture of sugar, wooden shovels, kettles and caldrons, iron or copper, for sugar mills; rakes and harrows for agriculture, iron or copper rivets for boilers, empty bags or sacks for exporting produce, circular and endless saws for machinery, hand saws for woodsmen.

THE VINEGAR TRADE.

From a communication of the French Minister at Guatemala, on the vinegar trade, published in "Revue du Commerce Extérieur" of June 3, 1899, the following facts are taken. The vinegar trade in Guatemala is very large, the white vinegar of Orléans especially being in great demand. The import duties are 10 centavos (about 5 cents United States currency) per liter, plus 15 per cent and 30 per cent, payable in gold. The vinegar is sent either in casks or bottles, the casks, however, being preferable on account of cheapness and less liability to breakage. The current prices, f. o. b., are: The barrel containing 225 liters, 55 to 80 francs (about $11 to $16); the case of 12 bottles, containing 75 centiliters each, 6 to 8 francs (about $1.20 to $1.60).

HAITI.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNITED STATES BUSINESS MEN.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Mr. WILLIAM WOEL, United States Consular Agent at Gonaives, for a communication relative to the openings presented to American cotton goods in Haiti. The following is a summary of his observations:

It is only a short time since American industries have been represented in the Haitian markets otherwise than by provisions, such as pork, flour, and codfish, and by soap and timber; but for about twenty years cotton goods have entered into competition with the Manchester productions, which until then held the undisputed monopoly. American articles, such as denims, prints, checks, and ginghams, are gaining a firmer foothold in this country, thanks to their real merit, enabling them to compete advantageously with English articles, in which often the manufacturers, in their endeavors to obtain the best selling price, conceal the quality of the goods by the use of sizing, which disappears at the first washing. By this subterfuge they have defeated their object, for the consumers have learned to place greater confidence in the American article, though it may cost a little more.

A complete victory for American cotton goods might already be assured if the manufacturers would observe certain small details which the customs of the market have rendered necessary. For instance, the lengths of the tissues should strictly measure 12½ or 25 yards. The former dimension has become very popular in recent years, and to it is due at least 50 per cent of the importations.

In the prints the American manufacturer shows too much uniformity, his assortment containing too few designs and not enough contrast in colors. Besides, the packing would prove more suitable if, instead of cases containing bolts measuring from 2,500 to 3,000 yards each, bolts measuring 625 yards were sent; that is, so that 25 pieces of 25 yards, or 50 pieces of 12½ yards, could be sold. The bleached or unbleached cotton, checks, or ginghams would also increase in favor if they were sent in pieces of 625 yards, to be resold in packages containing 4 to 6 pieces. Manchester occupies first place for blue handkerchiefs and Union Madras handkerchiefs. An enormous number of these are used in the interior, where all the country people, and many in the towns (men, women, and children), use them as a headdress.

The finer qualities of colored batiste handkerchiefs are made especially for this trade in Belfast, Ireland.

The following linen articles, or those in linen and cotton mixed—Brabant, batiste, cambric, Peotillé, drills, linen ducks—are practically monopolized by the Irish manufacturers. Among the finer goods are lightweight woolens which come from France, England, and Germany.

Personally the writer is of the opinion that the American manufacturers could find very good openings in Haiti for the following articles: Hosiery; shoes for men, women, and children; straw or felt hats for same; hollow ware, tinware, pottery, and china ware.

Transactions between the two countries are hampered by terms of credit, which are considered too short. While the European manufacturers allow six months, the American manufacturers must be paid in sixty days, rarely granting more than ninety days. The trade of the Haitian importer being generally based on credit, with no fixed time for payment, he is naturally influenced by the offers of traveling men sent to this country by the European houses.

The American manufacturer ought also to send commercial travelers who speak French, who could visit twice a year the different markets of the country with samples.

It is also thought that a much larger share of the Haitian trade would flow toward the United States if, in the local banking business, there were some American houses making a specialty of exchange transactions between the two countries. France, Germany, and England have the monopoly, in a certain measure, of this branch of banking business in the country, and it is not believed that Haiti will enter thoroughly in the line of progress marked out by the International American Congress until American bankers are themselves represented in the country.

It is true that certain interested papers, as well as some Europeans established in Haiti, try to divert competition in reporting that the economic and moral situation of the country is bad, undoubtedly without considering that the reader can well ask why they themselves should stay in the Republic.

When the rapidity with which the European houses which are engaged in this banking business prosper, in Port-au-Prince and in other cities, is taken into consideration, it is astonishing that not an American is among them; all the more so because their presence in this branch of business could not fail to exercise an influence, a prepollency which only awaits the opportunity to make itself felt, and in which the Department of State at Washington can not but be interested.

UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

Prof. EDMOND ROUMAIN, a son of ERNEST ROUMAIN, who established the Haytian legation at Washington, during the Administration of President LINCOLN, came to the United States during the month of June to interest capitalists in the exploitation of mines in Haiti. Professor ROUMAIN is a member of the faculty of the Medical and Pharmaceutical School at Port-au-Prince, and has devoted much time to the geological formations of his country. In an interview, as reported

in the "New York Tribune" of June 29, the following reference was made to the rich but undeveloped resources of the Republic:

In the northern part of Haiti, and within a radius of several leagues, one finds copper, iron, nickel, gypsum, sulphurated waters, stratified limestones, and porphyry. A fortune can be made out of almost any one of these products, and yet not a single one of them has been developed. When the French were in control of our country they kept the mines under cover for fear of exciting the cupidity of the English, and after the Republic was formed no effort was made to take out the enormous riches that repose in Haitian soil. I have with me enormous specimens of ore which I picked up from the surface and which I intend to have analyzed at the Columbia University, New York. The Government will give the concession to mine in this region to me, and what I want to do is to form a company of American capitalists to start operations as soon as possible. The Government can not sell its mines. It can sell the surface of the ground, but everything underneath the surface belongs to the Government and is inalienable. The ground must be rented.

In Volume VI of the MONTHLY BULLETIN there are a number of references to the mineral wealth of Haiti. On page 19 is a report on the coal fields by HENRI THOMASSET, an engineer, furnished the Bureau of the American Republics by M. J. N. LEGÉR, Minister from Haiti to the United States, who comments favorably on the report. On page 460 is a report from the United States Minister, Mr. POWELL, on the discovery of iron ore, and on page 1773 he refers to the coal, iron, and copper deposits, and again on page 2166 to the copper and iron mines. In an article beginning on page 1613 the United States Minister speaks of the desire of the Haitian Government to induce the investment of United States capital in the Republic to "assist in developing the unknown resources of the country."

HONDURAS.

NEW LINE OF BANANA STEAMERS.

The "New Orleans Picayune" of July 2 contains an account of a very important contract which was closed on July 1 between the Bluefields Steamship Company and the independent planters of Honduras. This, the writer says, assures to the port of New Orleans the greater part of the fruit exportation of the Republic of Honduras. A committee of three, holding the power of attorney for 165 planters, visited New Orleans, and, on the date named, all the arrangements for freight and fruit were consummated. Under the contract the Bluefields Company is to receive a supply of 130,000 bunches per month of the best bananas of Honduras.

The planters interested are from the neighborhood of the port of Ceiba, but there will be plenty of fruit from other ports. The contract stands good for the next four years and assures to the Bluefields Company the freight to and from the Republic of Honduras, and includes the ports of Puerto Cortes, Ceiba, and Truxillo. These are the three

known ports of the coast, and the fruit controlled by the planters in this section is fully seven-eighths of the fruit exported and freight imported.

Mr. LOUIS BIER, of Ceiba, who will probably become the agent for the Bluefields Company, says that he feels confident that he will be able to increase the guaranteed amount of fruit to nearly 200,000 bunches per month. He reports that one planter near Puerto Cortes ships 50,000 bunches each month. The Picayune says that among the local fruit dealers the contract is considered one of the most important made in a number of years. It includes the estates of 165 planters, and these estates represent over 200 plantations in the very heart of the banana country.

MEXICO.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

According to a French consular report published in Paris, June 8, 1899, a company has been formed for the establishment of a thread and cotton-goods factory in the district of Atlixco, to be known under the name of "Fábrica de San Agustin," the official name being "Noreiga Sanchez y Compañía."

It is also stated that a company from the United States intends to establish a large hat factory in Mexico and has authorized its agent to buy the ground on which the factory is to be constructed.

It is reported on the same authority that a large syndicate has just been formed in London, whose object is to build large houses for Mexico after the most modern plans and according to the latest hygienic laws. This syndicate will dispose of a capital of £10,000,000.

A stock company organized in Mexico for the erection of a large paper mill has just bought from the Lanzarote farm, near Cuautitlan, the necessary land for the establishment of the plant. The machinery and material were ordered to be purchased immediately, and will be bought very soon in Europe.

The representatives of a large Mexican syndicate have just made application to the Ministry of Fomento for a concession for the establishment of three new industries, viz, a factory for the manufacture of rubber articles, one for the manufacture of apparatus for electric light, and a factory for the transmission and utilizing of motor power.

Under date of June 3 the Legislature of the State of Mexico granted the joint stock company known as "El Progreso Industrial," engaged in the manufacture of paper from the "maguey" fiber, exemption from all State taxes and contributions for the term of ten years. The company's mills are situated in the districts of Tlalnepantla and Cuautitlan. About 1,600 men are now engaged in erecting the buildings. The engines will be moved by hydraulic power of 1,500 horsepower. The mills will be able to produce in large quantities all kinds of paper, especially

those of a superior quality. The stockholders in the company are in greater part Spanish capitalists.

Among the new firms incorporated under the laws of New Jersey (U. S. A.) on June 29 last is "The Mexican Coal and Coke Company," with an authorized capital of $6,000,000. The company is formed to operate coal mines and oil and gas wells in the Republic of Mexico. The incorporators are: JAMES F. GARDINER, HOWARD DUTCHER, and JOHN L. ELLIOTT, of New York; OSCAR BERGSTROM, of San Antonio; CHARLES M. CLARK, of New Brunswick; JAMES H. DEWEY, of Hoboken, and E. VETOR FROTHINGHAM, of Brooklyn.

The city of Monterey is making rapid strides in an industrial and commercial way. There have recently been finished, or are now in process of construction, 322 new buildings in the city, and many of the old edifices are being rebuilt to be in touch with the new order of things prevailing there.

There are 8,299 mining properties in Mexico, divided into twenty classes, as follows: Gold, 828; gold and silver, 156; silver and lead, 1,035; silver and iron, 42; silver and magnesium, 2; copper, 173; copper and lead, 6; copper and iron, 22; lead, 19; lead and iron, 7; iron, 99; antimony, 19; tin, 8; mercury, 95; sulphur, 20; opal, 13; rock salt, 2.

President ROBINSON, of the Mexican Central Railway, is reported to have estimated that Mexico will produce, during the present year, gold to the value of $12,000,000, and is said to hold the opinion that when the richer mines get railway connection Mexico's gold production will rise to $30,000,000 annually.

Large deposits of petroleum have recently been discovered at Cuetzala, near Puebla. A Mexican company is now being formed to work the deposits.

The new Central Bank in the City of Mexico will soon issue coupon bonds of small denominations, and will pay 5 per cent on yearly deposits. In this connection it has been estimated that the hoarded wealth in the capital is between 50 millions and 100 millions of pesos.

There are in the Republic of Mexico 130 cotton mills, which will pay into the National Treasury for the half year from July to December, 1899, the sum of $849,911.50, Mexican money, in the way of a stamp tax.

Hardly a day passes in Mexico without petitions being filed in the Department of Promotion for the use of the waters of several rivers for motive power or irrigation purposes. The orographic conformation of the territory of the Republic and the lack of great waterways have been the cause of backwardness in the agricultural industries and render necessary, if not indispensable, artificial aids.

CONVERSION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The "Daily Journal of Finance," of New York City, on July 12, 1899, contained the announcement that the formal contract has been signed whereby Messrs. J. P. MORGAN & Co., in New York; Mr. S. BLEICH-

RENER, the Deutsche Bank, and the Dresdner Bank in Berlin, and Messrs. J. S. MORGAN & Co., in London, undertake the conversion of the entire foreign debt of the Republic of Mexico, viz: Six per cent loans of 1888, 1890, and 1893, and the 5 per cent Tehuantepec loan heretofore issued in London and Berlin, into a 5 per cent consolidated external gold loan due within forty-five years at par by semiannual drawings, which may be increased after the year 1909, the first one to take place in June 1900, or by purchase in the market if same can be made under par. Principal and interest of the bonds payable in gold in Germany, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, or New York, in the last city at the rate of $4.85 per pound sterling. Bonds to be issued in denominations of from £20 to £1,000, at the option of the subscriber. The bonds are secured by a special hypothecation of 62 per cent of the import and export duties of the Republic of Mexico, such duties having amounted, as officially stated by the financial agent of the Mexican Government in the years 1897–98, to $22,582,437 silver, of which 62 per cent would amount to over $14,000,000 silver, and in 1898–99 (eleven months only) $24,709,076, of which 62 per cent would amount to over $15,000,000. The annual interest and sinking fund requirement for the entire external debt of Mexico, as consolidated by the new issue of bonds, is about $6,200,000 gold, or, at present exchange, about $13,000,000 of silver, the total amount of the issue being £22,700,000, of which £5,000,000 are reserved for allotment in the United States and in Holland. The issue in England and Germany at the present time will be limited in favor of holders of the existing bonds, who will be given the right of conversion. Applications will be made in due time for the listing of the bonds on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as on the stock exchanges of London, Berlin, Frankfort, and Amsterdam. Subscription books were opened at the office of J. P. MORGAN & Co., in New York City, at 10 a. m., Wednesday, July 12, and will close on notification from Berlin or London.

General POWELL CLAYTON, Ambassador from the United States to the Mexican Government, writes to the Department of State at Washington, from the City of Mexico, under date of June 8, 1899, in regard to the conversion of the foreign debt. According to the Ambassador's statement a 5 per cent loan has been effected for £25,000,000 ($111,929,500), guaranteed by the customs, redeemable in forty-five years, and inconvertible for ten years. The bonds are to be taken in England, the United States, and Germany, the larger part in the latter country, on account of the fact that most of the old debt was held by subjects of the German Empire.

In 1885 Europe quoted Mexico's gold 6 per cent bonds at nineteen cents on the dollar; to-day the 5 per cent bonds into which they have been funded are selling at par.

ACTIVE DEMAND FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS.

The "New York Journal of Commerce" for June 13 contains an article with reference to the activity of the business relations between the United States and Mexico. The writer says that while iron and steel goods, together with machinery and railway iron and equipments, make up a large share of the trade of the two Republics, there is an active demand for all sorts of manufactured goods. Within a week, 125 secondhand horse cars were bought in the city of New York for shipment to various parts of Mexico. Merchants were unable to place contracts for new cars, and after notifying their customers of the state of affairs in the car industry were obliged to purchase secondhand vehicles.

The situation with regard to steel rails is reported to be giving considerable annoyance to export merchants. It was with difficulty that even a carload of rails could be obtained for shipment, owing to the extraordinary demand from home and foreign markets. Contracts for bridge material are also reported to have been delayed, as well as for other articles composed of iron and steel. The difficulty, however, is not with the price, but with the delivery, it being almost impossible for the mills to supply the extraordinary demand.

The week ending July 1 showed a total value of shipments from New York to Mexico of $225,631. The articles making the best showing in these shipments were those of manufactured iron, steel rails figuring in the list to the extent of $50,400 worth, which is the largest one week's shipment in many months. The shipments of bridge material were valued at $14,000; copper wire, $7,000; railway material, $7,000, and other articles of manufactured iron, $12,000.

NEW COTTON MILL AT ORIZABA.

Mr. WILLIAM W. CANADA, United States Consul at Vera Cruz, has transmitted (May 18, 1899) to the Department of State at Washington newspaper descriptions of a new cotton mill located in Orizaba, about 82 miles west of Vera Cruz, on the Mexican Railway. These contain the following information:

The company interested in the new concern consists mainly of French capitalists. The capital is $2,200,000. Work on the building was commenced December 1, 1896. In the latter part of August, 1898, the first turbine wheel was installed. The power is derived from a fall in the Rio Blanco—a height of 82 feet—5,000 liters per second. The water is stored up in a tank containing 1,200 cubic meters, moving two turbine wheels of 500 horsepower each. From the turbine pit, 135 feet deep, the water flows through a tunnel 670 meters in length and is used again by the cotton factory at Nogales, another suburb of Orizaba. The factory occupies an area of 170 square meters. The buildings are lit with 1,200 incandescent lamps and 20 arc lights. The company generates its own electricity. In addition to the power derived from the turbine wheels, there is a magnificent steam engine of English make; capacity, 450 horsepower. There are 8 Northrop American looms. The balance of the machinery,

with the exception of the electrical plant, is English. The electrical part is French. This factory is now the second largest in the Republic, the largest being that at Nogales. This concern employs some 950 operatives—men, women, and children—but the help so far is almost entirely male, girls and women being scarce in the district.

Germans and Frenchmen are in charge of the printing. Six colors are printed simultaneously, with fine engrossed English cylinders. The capacity of the mill is 1,500 bolts a day. The mills are turning out various grades of goods, from common manta to prints. At present they are not making a very high class of goods, but when the help gets more intelligent they will do so.

PULQUE AS AN ANTISCORBUTIC.

One of the great national products of Mexico, which is the fermented juice of the maguey, and known as "pulque," has for some time past furnished a subject of study for two scientists sent out by the National Museum at Washington. In the pursuit of their investigations Dr. J. N. ROSE and Dr. WALTER HOUGH, the scientists referred to, have learned that Dr. FRANCISCO MARTÍNEZ BACA, a Mexican physician, has discovered that the great national drink possesses hitherto unknown medical properties, and that he has successfully used the same in eradicating the germs of scurvy, a disease which has always been particularly inimical to the Mexican Indians. Pulque has so often been treated of in the columns of the MONTHLY BULLETIN that its general properties need not be rehearsed again; but the interesting discovery that the drink swarms with bacteria, having but recently been made, is a matter claiming attention. The theory of Dr. BACA is that the bacteria introduced into the system by the drinking of pulque attack and conquer those existing in the scorbutical blood, thus eradicating the disease. At the request of the Mexican Government, Drs. ROSE and HOUGH will closely investigate the new discovery, and their report in the premises will be of engrossing interest.

Several attempts have been made in past years to preserve pulque so as to make it an article of export, but efforts in this direction have usually proved abortive. Recent advices are to the effect that the well-known capitalist, Señor SALVADOR MALO, has solicited of the Ministry of Promotion a patent for a process for preserving pulque for a certain period of time.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINES.

A new steamship service will be established between the port of Boston and Mexican ports on July 15, when a steamer will probably sail for Campeche, Vera Cruz, and Progreso, via Havana and Matanzas. It is announced that the sailings will be fortnightly. The name of the new company is the "Boston, Havana and Mexican Line," which is the local agency of NATHAN DE SZANGARI É HIJO, of Campeche, who has agents in all parts of Mexico and advantageous rates over all railroad lines in that Republic. The company has chartered two steamers of

about 1,500 tons net, and will increase this number as the volume of business may warrant.

The National Congress recently approved the contract entered into between the Secretary of Communications and Public Works and Mr. ADAM BIRREL, representing the English Steam Navigation Company and the South American Steamship Company, to extend to the Pacific ports of Mexico the service the steamers of these companies now carry on along the coasts of South America. The concessionaires are the same that at present carry on navigation between Cape Horn and Panama.

THE MILMO IRON MINES.

A correspondent of the "Engineering and Mining Journal" for July (p. 20) reports that the iron mines on the estate of PATRICIO MILMO, on the Golondrinas ranch, near the line of the Mexican National Railroad, are to be worked extensively. A company, capitalized at $10,000,000, was recently formed in Mexico to erect and operate a foundry in Monterey in connection with the mines. The company consists of EUGENE KELLEY, of New York (son-in-law of the late PATRICIO MILMO); VINCENTE FERRARAS, of Monterey; MANUEL BASAGOITI and LEON SIGNORET, of Mexico City. The mines are 4 miles from Golondrinas station and 100 miles north of Monterey. A cable line for handling the ore will make connection with the railroad. These mines are said to be the richest iron deposits in Mexico, and the ore is easily worked. The foundry is to be a modern establishment, with facilities for turning out all kinds of castings. The number of employees will be 1,000 each at the mines and foundry, and it is expected that the enterprise will give a great impetus to the mining industries of the Republic.

CONTRACT FOR SEWER PIPE.

The "Kansas City Manufacturer" for June 13, says the City of Mexico, the city of Guadalajara, and the city of Chihuahua have made contracts for 560 carloads of sewer pipe to be manufactured in Kansas City. Ever since January 1, 1899, these goods have been shipped southward, and in April an entire train, consisting of 26 big box cars, each loaded with a cargo of 30,000 pounds of pipe, was dispatched to the cities named. In a newspaper interview, Mr. W. S. DICKEY, of the clay manufacturing company bearing his name, said that the desire of Mexican cities for modern sanitation will not rest at sewer pipe alone; that there were indications along the whole line of improvements and the opening up of a field for hundreds of articles of American production. Among those specified are house refrigerators, patent plumbing appliances, springless locks, brass goods, doors, sashes, tanks, and filters. With regard to the Mexican trade, Mr. DICKEY says that the secret of making sales to Mexicans is giving them what they want, sent to them the way they want it, and billed to them in their money and measurements.

NEW RAILROAD IN YUCATÁN.

In Mérida, Yucatán, on May 21, 1899, the shareholders of the new corporation, "Compañia de los Ferrocarriles Sur-Orientales de Yucatán" (Yucatán South-Eastern Railways Company) held their first meeting for organization and election of officers. The council of administration is composed of eleven members, who held a meeting on the 22d and elected the following officers: Director-general (provisional), Sr. Don MANUEL SIERRA MÉNDEZ; auditor, Sr. Don MIGUEL NOGUÉS; attorney, Sr. Lic. Don EMILIO GARCÍA F. The boards of directors in New York and the City of Mexico are composed as follows: New York, Messrs. H. P. BOOTH, W. D. MUNSON, T. N. MOTLEY, J. G. BRILL, and FELIPE G. CANTÓN; City of Mexico, Señores JOAQUÍN D. CASASUS, ROSENDO PINEDA, JUSTO SIERRA, E. C. CREEL, and H. SCHERER. The roads tc be built will open up vast uncultivated regions in the old Maya peninsula and carry civilization and peace to the Indian tribes now in revolt against the Government. The capital of the company is $1,000,000, Mexican money.

THE NEW NATIONAL BUDGET.

The budget of the Mexican Government showing the estimates of expenditures for the fiscal year 1899–1900 divides the expenses of the Government among its various departments as follows:

Legislative power, $1,020,443.35; Executive power, $82,468.75; Judicial power, $449,450.80; Department of Foreign Relations, $575,717.15; Department of the Interior, $3,934,284.40; Department of Justice and Public Instruction, $2,469,721.75; Department of Promotion, Colonization, and Industry, $941,222.21; Department of Communications and Public Works, $6,294,935.63; Department of Treasury and Public Credit, Departmental Service, $6,333,998.80; public debt, $21,449,600; Department of War and the Navy, $12,476,786.76—making a total for the maintenance of the Government during the ensuing fiscal year of $56,028,629.60. The Treasury now has a surplus on hand of between $10,000,000 and $12,000,000.

ACATLAN COAL MINES.

An English company has just been formed with a capital of £600,000 for the development of coal deposits in the district of Acatlan, State of Puebla. The company has acquired the right of exploiting the under soil for an area of 20 square leagues. The coal is said to be of superior quality, and to be found in sufficiently large quantities to justify mining. Mr. PAUL LE ROYAL and four English engineers are at Acatlan preparing for the installation of the necessary mining machinery, a part of which is already at Matamoras. A branch line of one of the existing railroads will be constructed to the district. The borings will be extended to a depth of 500 meters. If the devel-

opment of the mines meets the anticipations of the prospectors, much of the coal trade of Mexico with the United States and England will be cut off.

ASPHALT, A NEW ARTICLE OF EXPORT.

The "Mexican Trade Review," in its issue for June 14 (p. 141), contains an interesting item with regard to the possible future of Mexico as an exporter of asphalt. Hitherto, all the asphalt used in the Republic has been imported, but a Texas company, organized to work the deposits on the Gulf coast, recently shipped from Tampico to the United States sixty barrels of asphalt to be used, for test purposes, in paving the streets of some of the cities of that country. The promoters are satisfied both as to the quantity and quality of the product. It is also reported that large deposits of asphalt are to be found on the proposed route of the "Gran Pacifico" railroad.

EXPLORATION OF TIBURÓN.

It will be recalled that the island of Tiburón, off the coast of Sonora, in the Gulf of California, was visited by some United States officials about a year ago, whose report was published throughout the United States. It is now stated that Mr. W. J. LYONS, of Hermosillo, Sonora, has secured a concession for the exploration of the island, and that next November he will fit out an expedition for that purpose. It seems that the island is rich in grasses and furnishes excellent pasturage for cattle; that the mineral resources are also considerable, consisting of gold, silver, and copper veins, none of which, however, have been worked. The waters surrounding the island teem with fish and crustaceans.

IMPORTS FROM MOBILE, ALA.

Mr. WILLIAM A. LE BARRON, Vice-Consul for Mexico at Mobile, Ala., sends the Bureau of the American Republics the following reports of the value of the shipments of merchandise to Mexican ports from the United States port named:

To Progreso, on June 1, $2,710.32; June 16, $4,795.75; total, $7,506.07.
To Tampico, June 9, $29,676.

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

On May 26 the work of the International Boundary Commission, charged with settling the divisional line between Mexico and Guatemala, was brought to a close. It is expected that the final agreement, which will terminate this very interesting question to the two countries concerned will be reached in a very short time.

NICARAGUA.

CONTROL OF THE BANANA TRADE.

The following statement made by United States Consul SORSBY, of San Juan del Norte, in a dispatch to the Department of State of the United States, under date of May 10, 1899, is of interest to dealers and consumers of bananas:

The fruit trust, operating in the West Indies and Central America, the principal associates of which are the Boston Fruit Company, of Boston; MINOR C. KEITH, of Costa Rica, and others, have entered the banana fields of the Department of Zelaya (Bluefields and Rama districts), Nicaragua. Their representative, Mr. J. LAMOTTE MORGAN, arrived at Bluefields on the 28th ultimo, and, going into the heart of the banana district, secured contracts from nearly all of the larger planters. Mr. MORGAN tells me that it is the purpose of his people to put on a line of steamers immediately, with the view of controlling all the banana trade of Nicaragua. The advent of this new corporation will probably have the effect, at least for the present, of advancing the price of bananas and cheapening freights on incoming and outgoing cargoes. Mr. MORGAN states that the freight and passenger service of the new line will be in every respect superior to that of the old company, and it is probable that a small but fast steamer will be run as an auxiliary between Port Limon, Costa Rica, and San Juan del Norte, Bluefields, and Cape Gracias, Nicaragua.

PERU.

THE PERMANENT EXPOSITION AT LIMA.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for April, 1897, contained an article relating to the "Permanent Exposition of Machinery" which was inaugurated on July 28, 1897, at Lima, Peru, and it has been referred to from time to time in these columns since that date. A pamphlet recently issued by the exposition authorities has been received at the Bureau of the American Republics. It contains certain explanations and instructions to intending exhibitors, which for their benefit are here reproduced in substance:

1. Exhibitors have nothing to pay for the space assigned them and occupied by them in the building.

2. A maximum area of 40 meters square is the utmost usually granted to each exhibitor, but more space may be obtained on special application.

3. The Government of Peru having decreed, under date of April 9, 1898, that the exhibition is to be not only of machinery, but also of all kinds of manufactured goods, the management is ready to receive manufactured articles of all kinds and to extend to them the same privileges and facilities as are enjoyed by the machinery exhibits.

4. Parties desiring to exhibit machinery of any kind or manufactured goods in general may forward the same at any time, taking care, however, that the articles forwarded shall not, when installed, occupy more space than 40 meters square.

5. Articles subject to duty imported for exhibition at the Permanent Exhibition of Lima are exempted from the payment of the same unless the articles are sold on the ground; and to guarantee the payment of said duties the agent of the importer will furnish a satisfactory bond to pay the amount of said duties at the expiration of the six months during which the articles may be exhibited, or at the conclusion of the longer period which the Government may grant in certain cases.

6. The greater part of the machinery imported through Peruvian ports is free of duty.

7. The only expenses exhibitors are called upon to incur upon the arrival of the articles at Peru are port charges, transportation to Lima, and cost of installation, which are insignificant.

8. The office of the Exposition in Lima and all Peruvian Consuls abroad will furnish all further information that may be desired and dispel any doubts that may arise.

9. All goods sent to the Exposition should be accompanied by the corresponding bill of lading and invoice and be marked as follows: "Exposición Permanente, Lima, Perú."

10. Goods sent to the Exposition by manufacturers or exporters having an agent in Lima may be sold through the said agent, should the owner so desire.

11. The Exposition authorities will also see to the dispatching at the custom-house of all goods consigned to the Exposition, attend to its transportation to Lima and to its installation in the Exposition building, all at the expense of the exhibitor.

12. The authorities will also make sales of such goods, per account of the shipper, charging the commission the latter may designate, the purchaser paying the price to the Bank of Peru and London, where the proceeds of the sale will remain at the disposal of the owner.

13. The same authorities will in due time forward the account of expenses, etc., and whenever a sale is made will give immediate notice thereof, so that the exhibitor may replace the article sold by another, better or more improved, if possible.

14. Lastly, it is necessary and indispensable that the exhibitors, on forwarding their exhibits, should send therewith a description, price list, and discounts, as also minute and detailed instructions regarding their application, power, weight, dimensions, method of working, if machinery, etc., sending at the same time catalogues, plans, cuts, and other data that may help in the study and management of the machinery.

THE MOST RECENT TARIFF CHANGES.

From the "International Customs Journal," of Brussels, the following translations of laws relating to tariff changes in the Republic of Peru have been received:

I. Extract from the law of December 31, 1898, relative to consumption duties on alcoholic beverages of all kinds:

In virtue of articles 1 and 2 of the aforesaid law the under-mentioned alcoholic beverages, proceeding from abroad (the importation of these beverages by land is prohibited), shall, on clearance from maritime or river custom-houses, be liable to the consumption duties established in the following schedule:

Alcoholic beverages of foreign origin.

		Sol.
Beer	liter..	0.07
Absinthe, aniseed brandy, cognac, kirsch, bitters, rum, and all other alcoholic beverages except wine	liter..	.40
Wines, red or white, Burgundy, Rhine, Cyprus, Sherry, Madeira, Port, "Cereza," Frontignan, "Pajarete," Malmsey, Muscatel, "Pedro Jimenez," "Peralta," and other generous wines; Asti and all sparkling wines other than Champagne, and vermouth	liter..	.30
Wines, red or white, Claret, "Carlón," Catalogne, "Priorato," "San Vincente," and the like	liter..	.25
Champagne	do....	.50

II. Extract from the law of January 14, 1899, modifying the régime applicable to the importation, consumption, and exportation of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes:

ART. 1. The import duties, applicable to tobacco of all kinds, cigars, and cigarettes imported from abroad into the territory of the Republic, shall be specific They shall be collected in all custom-houses conformably to the following tariff:

		Sol.
Tobacco of contiguous regions, in the leaf, raw, in packets and carrots, kilogram net		0.25
Tobacco of any other origin, in the leaf, raw, in packets and carrots, kilogram net		.50
Tobacco of whatever origin, including contiguous regions, chewing, snuff, cut or chopped, and, in general, tobacco manufactured in any manner other than cigars or cigarettes	kil. net..	1.00
Cigars, Italian	do....	4.00
Cigars of any other origin	do....	7.00
Cigarettes of whatever origin, in boxes or packets not containing more than 24 cigarettes	thousand packets..	75.00

ART. 2. In future a duty shall be collected throughout the Republic and in every place of consumption on all kinds of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes according to the following table:

		Sol.
1. Tobacco of national production, in the leaf, raw, in packets, carrots, or in any other form	kil. net..	2.00
2. Tobacco of Mexico and Central America	do....	2.20
3. Tobacco of contiguous regions, in the leaf, raw, in packets or carrots	do....	2.10
4. Tobacco, foreign, of any other origin, in the leaf, raw, in packets or carrots	kil. net..	3.20
5. Tobacco, foreign, chewing or snuff	do....	2.00

		Sol.
6. Tobacco, foreign, cut or chopped, in packets, cigarettes, etc	kil. net..	3.00
7. Cigars of whatever foreign origin, in boxes or bulk	do....	2.50

* * * * * * *

ART. 4. In case of exportation abroad of tobacco of all kinds, manufactured in the country into cigars, cigarettes, snuff, cut or chopped tobacco, the exporter shall, after verification by the customs of the contents of the packages and after ascertaining that the exportation has really been effected, be entitled to a drawback of consumption duties at the following rates:

		Sol.
Tobacco, national or foreign, exported after having been chopped, for cigarettes	kil. net..	1.00
The same tobacco, in finished cigars and cigarettes, in boxes, packets, or bulk	kil. net..	2.00

This drawback shall not be granted when the manufactured products are made by machinery.

* * * * * * *

ART. 7. All laws, general or special, contrary to the present dispositions are repealed.

SUPPLEMENTARY DECREE TO CIVIL-MARRIAGE LAW.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received from the Department of State of the United States a copy of a dispatch from Hon. IRVING B. DUDLEY, United States Minister to Peru, under date of May 24, 1899, inclosing a translation of a supreme presidential decree, promulgated May 9, 1899, supplementary to the civil-marriage law of December 23, 1897.

The purpose of this decree is to prescribe a mode of legal proof to be followed by persons desiring to marry outside of the Roman Catholic Church by availing themselves of the provisions of the civil-marriage law. This law legalizes civil marriages when both parties are non-Catholics, and when, one only of the parties being of that church, the ecclesiastical authority refuses to perform the ceremony. Reference is made to this law in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for April, 1899 (p. 1789), in an article entitled "Legal rights of foreign residents in Peru."

The translation of the supreme decree reads as follows:

Whereas the laws existing up to 1897 only permitted marriages between Catholics, the sole object of the law of December 23 of the same year being the habilitation of non-Catholics;

The said law not containing any provision prescribing the manner of proving the non-Catholicity of the contracting parties, an essential and primary condition of its application;

This, in execution of the law, has led to discussion and created obstacles the suppression of which is urgent, by the prescription of legal and ready means for the previous presentation of the requisite proofs;

Neither has any kind of proceeding been established to facilitate the carrying out of the law, in case of a denial by the ecclesiastical authorities of permission to marry in case of a diversity of creeds;

In exercising the faculty paragraph 5 of article 94 of the Constitution confers upon me (the President of the Republic), I decree:

ARTICLE 1. Non-Catholics having recourse to the judicial authorities for the

object of contracting matrimony in accordance with the said law shall accompany their petition with a document probatory of the religion to which they belong.

ART. 2. Persons belonging to no religion, or who are able only with great difficulty to produce the required probatory document, shall substitute for the same a sworn written declaration, accompanied with those of at least two persons of well-known standing, residents in the place, testifying to the fact of the petitioners not having been baptized in the Catholic Church.

ART. 3. The Judge shall personally receive the sworn verbal ratification of the petitioner's statements and of the witnesses' declarations, and shall extend the corresponding documents.

ART. 4. If the petitioners are unable to present the necessary witnesses at the place where their petition is presented, but give the assurance of the existence of the same, either in the Republic or abroad, the corresponding requisitorial letters shall be extended for the taking of the declarations.

ART. 5. Persons petitioning for a civil marriage on account of the ecclesiastical authority having refused to them the dispensation of the impediment offered by a diversity of creeds shall accompany their petition with an authentic proof (certificate) of the said refusal.

In the case of the petitioners showing the impossibility for them to obtain the required certificate, the Judge shall personally demand the same of the competent ecclesiastical authority and on receipt of the reply shall give the corresponding decree.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN 1898.

The following table from "Courier du Perou" of June 8, 1899, gives the imports and exports of Peru for 1898, from which it is seen that the United States occupies the third place. The great preponderance in favor of the Anglo-Saxons is attributed to the enterprise of the traveling men and representatives sent to this country, and to the great amount of advertising which they do. The amounts are given in sols, a sol having the value of 43.6 cents in United States currency.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Sols.	*Sols.*	*Sols.*
England	6,831,969.78	15,648,310.36	22,480,280.14
Germany	3,060,430.37	2,322,023.74	5,382,454.11
United States	1,647,527.04	1,392,623.37	3,040,150.41
France	1,306,978.34	1,181,312.07	2,488,293.41
Chile	1,207,410.60	5,753,074.22	6,962,484.82
Italy	632,957.23	38,964.95	671,932.18
China	568,027.82	32,660.00	600,687.82
Belgium	536,676.61	8,786.00	545,462.61
Spain	110,031.19	11,965.24	121,996.43
Central America	82,888.79	40,546.48	132,435.27
Ecuador	72,943.35	1,207,506.83	1,280,450.18
Colombia	34,212.96	452,193.77	486,406.73
Uruguay	19,102.87	.....	19,102.87
Australia	11,787.28	.....	11,787.28
Brazil	3,718.50	9,010.00	12,728.50
Portugal	830.00	500.00	1,330.00
Argentine	389.85	421,080.00	5,382,454.11
Bolivia	105.00	56,683.01	56,788.01
Mexico	62.00	2,871.00	3,533.00
	16,128,649.58	28,168,452.84	44,297,102.42
Iquitos	1,875,399.19	2,856,929.33	4,732,329.52
Total	18,004,048.77	31,025,382.17	49,029,430.94

RECENT DISCOVERY OF COPPER ORE.

A correspondent of the "Engineering and Mining Journal" sends the following report, which is published in the Journal on page 663 of its issue for June 3:

I recently found a good vein of copper ore on Isla de Santa, 4 miles north of Chimbote. I am shipping ore carrying 25 per cent copper and 1 ounce gold per ton from the dump by launches, and the ore, f. o. b. steamer, costs $1 per ton, while extraction expenses are $15 gold per ton. I have found also several promising veins on the mainland, carrying copper with from one-fourth to as much as 3 ounces gold per ton. Samples of oxychloride ore give as high as 46 per cent copper. Mr. DUFOURGE is here representing a New York syndicate, promoted by Mr. N. L. SELLECK, and is looking into some of the properties. The syndicate also interests itself in coal. Plenty of coal is found up the river Santa, 105 kilometers from Chimbote, and it may induce the continuation of the Chimbote railroad, as Chimbote is the best port on the coast. Such a road will open up not only the coal, but the rich gold placers and mines of Casu and Pataz and the copper, gold, and other mines of the whole department of Ancachs. Mr. DUFOURGE's party includes a civil engineer, Major ALFRED SEARS, and it is expected that active work will begin when the examination is completed.

THE CÁUCHO, OR INDIA-RUBBER TREE.

Mr. HUBER, a botanist on the scientific staff of the Museum of Pará, Brazil, recently returned from a visit to the Ucayli region in Peru, has authoritatively settled the disputed point as to the botanical group to which belongs the tree which produces the india rubber exported from Peru through Pará under the name of "cáucho." He has discovered that the tree is a *Castilloa*, and he purposes making comparisons to determine whether it is the same as the *Castilloa elastica* of Mexico and Central America, or a variety of the same genus. The india-rubber trees growing in Brazil belong to the *Hevea guianensis* family, and are mostly confined to the lowlands periodically inundated by the Amazon River. The usual custom is to extract the rubber from the cáucho tree by felling, while the Heveas are always tapped.

DEMAND FOR CATALOGUES.

The French Legation at Lima gives notice to French exporters that there is a demand in Peru for catalogues of steam pumps, hydraulic machinery, boilers, sugar machinery, implements and machinery for mining and metallurgical foundries, chemical apparatus, and in general, all machinery and apparatus which can be employed in mining, in metallurgical foundries, sugar mills, weaving, dyeing, paper mills, cloth factories, and in the preparation of provisions, etc.

These catalogues (published in Spanish with monetary terms used in Peru) should give lowest prices with discounts and conditions of payment, packing, etc.

NEW FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

At the initiative of Señor Don HERNÁN DE VIVERO, of Lima, a new financial institution to be known as the "Banco Popular," has been organized in the ancient seat of the Incas. The purpose of this new bank is to make loans to small tradesmen and artisans and save them from the clutches of the usurer. It is organized upon the same plan as the similar bank at Buenos Ayres.

COMMERCIAL COLLEGE AT LIMA.

On April 1 Señor CANDAMO, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Lima, Peru, inaugurated the English Commercial College, founded by Dr. WOOD. A competent corps of professors has been appointed, and as the college is under the patronage of the Chamber of Commerce, and will receive financial assistance therefrom, it is expected that it will give gratifying results.

SALVADOR.

EXPORT OF SILVER—A DECREE.

Under date of May 21, 1899, Mr. JOHN JENKINS, United States Consul at San Salvador, writes the Department of State at Washington regarding the exportation of silver from the Republic. According to a decree just issued by the President, the laws prohibiting the export of silver coin and silver in bars, which the National Assembly enacted on March 18 and 20, are to be suspended until the next meeting of the Assembly.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement, from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, O. P. AUSTIN, Chief, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of May, 1899, corrected to June 28, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the previous year; also for the eleven months ending May, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month,

are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for May, for example, are not published until some time in July.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; campêche*)—				
Mexico	.....	$2,406	$21,700	$21,3 8
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	$19,565	20,922	180,351	219,308
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crû; Cacao*):				
Brazil	8,909	3,748	170,115	632,932
Other South America	69,237	211,642	1,058,986	1,246,802
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	695,237	1,091,602	4,192,716	4,927,028
Mexico	425,786	491,433	3,435,647	2,450,908
Brazil	3,310,080	3,002,762	38,554,238	32,343,871
Other South America	965,656	824,546	8,553,215	6,537,482
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	8,913	12,953	121,653	133,474
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequen; Henequen; Henneguen*)—				
Mexico	454,434	981,867	4,098,587	8,361,243
Philippine Islands	106,260	619,774	2,770,086	3,333,646
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	176,657	207,855	1,370,397	1,587,553
South America	72,787	123,415	518,596	586,205
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	56	155	134,654	137,190
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America	71	5,638	38,848	132,261
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	14,600	21,490	177,959	247,315
Mexico	84,197	198,074	1,578,990	1,756,534
South America	649,384	850,037	8,112,388	8,997,305
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	14,890	82,514	382,736	783,959
Mexico	3,932	24,669	33,838	126,980
Brazil	948,388	1,608,942	14,463,751	16,126,975
Other South America	43,453	79,830	573,257	883,394
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	102,992	210,515	1,521,474	1,769,095
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior al No. 16 de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	76,863	28,125	156,777	103,651
Mexico	16,228	17,881	38,132	42,729
Cuba	1,070,712	3,680,127	9,607,391	13,805,875
Brazil	291,183	140,149	2,125,368	810,276
Other South America	99,231	142,038	3,630,774	5,089,136
Philippine Islands	90,918	.....	314,509	969,323
Hawaiian Islands	2,445,690	2,346,637	14,528,484	14,383,997
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	16,191	7,306	230,676	228,383
Cuba	7,739	463,252	2,822,451	4,480,925

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	$6	$50,005	$139,122	$364,122
Mexico	11,881	44,134	280,507	342,976
Cuba	933	15,444	1,766	23,047
South America	----	----	41,457	14,759
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	64,528	61,467	839,532	284,553
Class 2 (combing)	----	----	9,598	106
Class 3 (carpet)	189,990	15,602	668,083	328,167

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$115	$176	$14,507	$6,078
Mexico	16,591	28,363	114,292	201,873
Santo Domingo	----	----	1,056	591
Cuba	----	10,641	7,817	31,692
Porto Rico	----	240	2,504	2,239
Argentina	27,201	75,200	361,805	1,453,234
Brazil	195	707	23,966	33,327
Colombia	848	99	3,796	1,535
Other South America	17,138	19,287	175,801	272,825
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	40	165	7,058	3,485
Mexico	10,020	5,060	68,700	90,870
South America	250	----	7,212	5,193
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	76	2,861	44,442	61,486
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	1,465	338	12,045	6,028
Mexico	2,965	8,175	78,065	78,054
South America	----	----	5,700	3,839
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	400	----	9,510	11,492
South America	180	----	10,314	7,770
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	529	10,204	33,831	40,419
Mexico	7,681	7,331	119,148	55,876
Santo Domingo	----	900	455	10,472
Cuba	----	7,788	22,506	39,091
Porto Rico	----	2,228	1,332	14,885
Argentina	457	2,352	25,192	18,045
Brazil	1,087	2,752	151,812	43,987
Colombia	304	403	16,925	47,060
Other South America	2,290	4,958	37,924	117,841
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	11,544	4,584	66,389	34,077
Mexico	1,258	13,173	42,404	47,769
Santo Domingo	----	88	166	256
Cuba	----	45,553	415,803	202,290
Porto Rico	----	63	80	63
South America	1,674	1,343	36,843	21,127
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	137,723	68,646	1,096,301	921,045
Mexico	9,194	8,909	73,548	120,623
Santo Domingo	1,469	4,828	149,156	132,390
Cuba	----	144,901	1,160,736	1,523,973
Porto Rico	----	28,422	450,493	444,212
Brazil	229,762	264,348	3,010,661	3,103,331
Colombia	47,609	31,046	486,321	371,925
Other South America	118,269	96,408	1,582,875	1,256,395

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Breadstuffs—Continued.				
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	$4,144	$1,763	$39,793	$30,210
South America	95,745	433	1,629,128	190,826
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	6,680	848	41,923	36,302
Mexico	13,699	35,174	483,130	415,535
Santo Domingo	----------	----------	23,374	21,687
Cuba	----------	19,272	22,194	117,220
Porto Rico	----------	594	5,821	5,011
Argentina	7,077	16,898	201,480	513,905
Brazil	26,381	1,058	533,987	104,303
Colombia	1,702	1,303	38,038	23,960
Other South America	8,369	2,597	77,483	49,424
Cycles and parts of (*Bicicios y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicycleties et leurs parties*):				
Central America	381	869	7,333	5,602
Mexico	6,410	3,278	59,976	46,082
Santo Domingo	----------	----------	1,134	253
Cuba	----------	1,965	9,214	15,031
Porto Rico	----------	344	3,359	2,689
Argentina	8,166	22,150	80,629	204,051
Brazil	8,612	3,407	88,849	52,006
Colombia	340	1,638	15,031	8,288
Other South America	4,129	7,556	46,374	49,910
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	341	295	6,923	2,590
Mexico	1,655	1,457	18,685	25,318
Argentina	570	632	24,915	22,064
Brazil	1,130	6,261	38,693	64,358
Other South America	4,989	7,104	80,167	84,900
Coal (*Carbón. Carvão; Charban*):				
Central America	391	1,576	19,135	12,114
Mexico	111,236	127,404	852,390	1,130,893
Santo Domingo	1,445	----------	10,729	11,019
Cuba	----------	63,454	459,805	628,642
Porto Rico	----------	2,100	21,014	45,098
Brazil	10,050	18,687	74,596	149,432
Colombia	----------	2,454	32,434	34,459
Other South America	660	4,798	18,300	161,743
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	2,765	2,271	21,470	26,703
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	37,803	5,819	1,312,173	1,039,409
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	30,974	54,584	355,927	489,094
Mexico	37,450	55,463	379,831	449,759
Santo Domingo	744	16,338	91,194	152,937
Cuba	----------	82,154	12,163	351,947
Porto Rico	----------	38,075	2,206	104,419
Argentina	12,057	8,523	164,991	173,434
Brazil	28,586	38,391	485,447	496,474
Colombia	23,001	37,357	255,997	339,296
Other South America	127,115	105,970	1,002,409	1,293,439
Wearing apparel (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	25,977	25,342	197,699	200,179
Mexico	28,756	36,866	291,231	363,475
Santo Domingo	----------	55	17,895	24,965
Cuba	----------	16,925	11,715	98,294
Porto Rico	----------	5,831	1,678	22,512
Argentina	4,968	2,541	30,465	62,612
Brazil	1,446	3,950	46,225	39,559
Colombia	6,069	3,481	40,051	40,677
Other South America	2,557	2,958	32,791	47,802

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	$1,554	$2,128	$33,893	$25,040
Mexico	5,242	4,894	52,790	71,942
Santo Domingo	.....	40	1,347	1,769
Cuba	.....	4,152	38,175	59,170
Porto Rico	.....	497	2,348	4,241
Argentina	1,058	1,985	8,718	16,082
Brazil	117	963	10,845	16,521
Colombia	753	1,049	10,060	7,622
Other South America	1,060	2,060	22,852	21,370
Hides and skins (*Couros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuiro et peaux*):				
Central America	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mexico	312	215	2,306	2,056
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	4,479	3,820	55,932	76,904
Mexico	23,483	48,882	258,649	389,947
Argentina	17,449	27,589	104,548	210,361
Brazil	1,977	5,942	84,329	107,335
Other South America	10,972	9,888	117,030	109,977
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	105	.....	10,824	33,627
Mexico	45,693	41,510	504,514	497,644
South America	46,544	29,768	160,583	246,780
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras, e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies, et outils*)—				
Central America	5,033	8,558	76,288	75,824
Mexico	35,565	43,505	397,979	320,873
Santo Domingo	10	742	11,900	10,526
Cuba	.....	32,395	56,961	224,100
Porto Rico	.....	4,220	9,439	14,288
Argentina	11,778	13,259	129,514	199,065
Brazil	8,975	21,188	148,456	203,336
Colombia	6,329	6,593	80,857	97,802
Other South America	17,820	24,116	191,213	218,947
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	2,850	1,277	28,606	18,160
Mexico	7,179	44,680	188,618	256,991
Santo Domingo	.....	36	1,236	2,246
Cuba	.....	2,575	2,785	8,202
Porto Rico	.....	732	3,120	2,479
Argentina	5,570	787	75,786	119,516
Brazil	4,646	11,138	84,102	100,949
Colombia	4,021	6,101	74,497	60,693
Other South America	6,811	12,626	92,286	119,011
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines d'écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	10	47	2,320	2,165
Mexico	2,643	3,917	25,208	39,904
Santo Domingo	.....	.....	90	188
Cuba	.....	3,551	1,457	18,748
Porto Rico	.....	323	65	3,946
Argentina	1,401	2,214	14,172	30,068
Brazil	447	60	4,930	5,485
Colombia	217	334	4,083	3,656
Other South America	735	4,381	13,767	23,335

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	$95	$1,955	$4,282	$10,222
Mexico	287	1,439	8,599	9,772
Santo Domingo	----------	109	569	1,534
Cuba	----------	1,339	2,298	9,082
Porto Rico	----------	1,195	1,394	7,173
Argentina	----------	4,875	4,360	32,045
Brazil	5,229	4,019	51,189	40,731
Colombia	----------	1,092	3,181	3,231
Other South America	638	2,567	12,192	27,886
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	7,366	12,541	83,056	94,876
Mexico	8,622	34,920	69,832	188,142
Colombia	4,610	3,612	37,420	29,360
Other South America	1,805	2,198	25,604	35,852
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	992	964	14,469	12,749
Mexico	1,217	888	9,351	8,077
Santo Domingo	----------	73	5,517	3,714
Cuba	----------	965	7,543	8,403
Porto Rico	----------	211	814	1,204
Argentina	----------	----------	72,320	73,037
Brazil	6,928	11,026	181,955	212,863
Colombia	869	363	11,042	12,239
Other South America	5,596	6,741	85,408	76,212
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*):				
Central America	200	550	2,812	3,353
Mexico	299	448	2,958	4,019
Santo Domingo	----------	26	447	517
Cuba	----------	4,169	15,352	30,685
Porto Rico	----------	555	1,648	3,836
Argentina	15,420	3,383	110,665	34,246
Brazil	3,083	2,628	61,689	47,248
Colombia	346	634	4,040	6,312
Other South America	10,091	11,125	47,446	40,257
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crús; Huiles minérales, brutes*):				
Mexico	34,781	38,475	317,433	335,548
Cuba	----------	7,605	207,649	166,773
Porto Rico	----------	----------	51,808	----------
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos mineraes, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	10,196	6,091	106,471	121,594
Mexico	16,733	26,967	167,831	166,890
Santo Domingo	20	346	49,784	38,991
Cuba	----------	4,208	31,358	120,531
Porto Rico	----------	4,196	22,677	56,177
Argentina	101,112	105,528	902,899	673,432
Brazil	127,661	92,174	1,342,233	1,420,045
Colombia	12,365	9,393	91,867	109,240
Other South America	101,992	143,636	786,876	813,927
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	625	1,309	2,926	4,753
Mexico	32,357	26,412	321,566	417,679
Santo Domingo	392	3,581	20,686	26,614
Cuba	----------	4,027	2,774	16,728
Argentina	----------	2,337	4,188	26,036
Brazil	10,578	18,071	226,337	185,049
Other South America	11,120	9,324	91,166	88,717
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Parafina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	1,088	3,869	19,066	29,039
Mexico	8,637	35,024	147,231	220,267
Brazil	886	877	10,124	11,471
Other South America	473	294	5,703	6,457

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	$1,639	$1,381	$26,112	$18,778
Mexico	1,208	1,212	13,241	17,148
Santo Domingo	----------	51	33	117
Cuba	----------	356	6,412	13,228
Porto Rico	----------	----------	30	50
Argentina	52	225	409	1,352
Brazil	601	782	16,548	16,376
Colombia	1,099	841	6,255	4,521
Other South America	996	1,731	11,556	11,598
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	3,901	2,946	37,308	31,121
Mexico	----------	----------	492	580
Santo Domingo	----------	880	1,643	3,777
Cuba	----------	5,975	13,720	31,270
Porto Rico	----------	150	859	1,075
Brazil	----------	89	1,112	2,486
Colombia	1,698	1,095	11,500	12,521
Other South America	17,856	11,601	150,727	160,405
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	8,878	13,140	87,879	84,343
Mexico	720	2,570	22,481	31,589
Santo Domingo	321	66	26,160	15,822
Cuba	----------	45	13,231	19,137
Porto Rico	----------	----------	287	347
Brazil	510	1,898	25,070	36,788
Colombia	1,302	1,854	16,175	12,062
Other South America	1,752	14,369	11,976	33,254
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	1,214	1,357	14,976	16,079
Mexico	734	2,982	8,874	15,218
Santo Domingo	----------	206	1,412	1,583
Cuba	----------	80,278	672,008	548,206
Porto Rico	----------	6,963	33,013	66,792
Brazil	19,871	14,120	496,995	408,405
Colombia	219	57	1,273	1,554
Other South America	829	2,673	25,966	16,376
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	2,257	1,791	26,377	20,765
Mexico	1,999	2,310	20,247	28,982
Santo Domingo	69	608	5,400	6,938
Cuba	----------	59,941	365,243	486,975
Porto Rico	----------	723	50,941	11,204
Brazil	274	276	3,196	3,473
Colombia	1,718	1,875	12,824	13,865
Other South America	4,777	7,064	78,385	77,678
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de Porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	6,036	4,006	66,078	56,993
Santo Domingo	264	816	3,468	4,784
Cuba	----------	6,090	14,103	35,177
Porto Rico	----------	17,255	176,219	156,640
Brazil	1,400	40	1,955	5,880
Colombia	1,684	881	7,919	8,103
Other South America	19,516	19,978	191,316	220,583
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	19,236	17,437	136,102	145,781
Mexico	16,920	14,015	170,085	155,180
Santo Domingo	485	2,530	19,029	23,253
Cuba	----------	161,855	1,027,657	1,273,588
Porto Rico	----------	27,960	190,630	228,532
Argentina	----------	477	2,954	3,483
Brazil	60,321	111,018	942,318	1,118,869
Colombia	16,618	10,037	110,178	83,429
Other South America	96,507	68,867	609,260	568,930
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y Oleomargarine; Oleo e oleomargarina; Cléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	148	222	1,006	2,324
Mexico	66	60	889	731
Colombia	758	377	7,290	9,072
Other South America	1,150	3,445	14,733	20,085

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meats and dairy products—Continued.				
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Cental America	$4,115	$3,825	$44,814	$42,222
Mexico	4,936	3,590	39,339	46,767
Santo Domingo	----	841	6,151	10,244
Cuba	----	4,283	8,087	94,340
Porto Rico	----	857	2,407	7,738
Brazil	9,893	21,195	86,373	157,387
Colombia	2,296	1,094	18,818	13,394
Other South America	10,493	18,566	80,029	124,089
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	1,339	1,203	16,340	15,992
Mexico	1,048	2,197	13,224	18,068
Santo Domingo	----	375	3,282	4,457
Cuba	----	4,732	25,888	73,747
Porto Rico	----	3,387	1,535	24,385
Brazil	----	----	257	638
Colombia	1,223	807	10,439	7,222
Other South America	788	499	15,868	12,345
Seeds (*Semillas; Sementes; Semence*):				
Central America	373	1,139	5,020	4,447
Mexico	458	302	29,079	15,394
Santo Domingo	78	17	742	206
Cuba	----	204	2,612	3,526
Porto Rico	----	100	19	497
Argentina	20	439	368	7,794
Brazil	----	36	858	1,035
Colombia	16	3	1,532	1,352
Other South America	237	575	2,006	2,288
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	2,702	1,369	47,488	17,601
Mexico	128	8,555	13,541	25,248
Santo Domingo	----	41	1,504	1,116
Colombia	1,312	1,098	25,513	13,598
Other South America	123	131	5,141	2,042
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	1,835	3,691	29,849	23,375
Mexico	15,142	4,808	129,563	131,511
Argentina	1,200	2,345	5,104	22,425
Colombia	786	506	7,218	5,485
Other South America	6,613	7,359	89,912	87,320
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué*):				
Central America	6,831	4,689	44,026	50,706
Mexico	339	9,231	17,725	18,313
Cuba	----	13,917	146,292	146,072
Argentina	537	----	2,344	4,176
Brazil	----	----	560	500
Colombia	128	1,030	3,112	5,382
Other South America	9,102	8,904	73,178	80,094
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	522	691	48,884	27,388
Mexico	28,673	21,926	231,789	251,445
Cuba	----	3,151	14,863	36,507
Argentina	----	4,577	7,085	18,099
Brazil	----	----	7,278	4,524
Colombia	1,344	1,588	23,737	22,187
Other South America	240	----	49,540	26,192
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction*):				
Central America	2,195	6,477	35,279	56,631
Mexico	73,798	63,950	773,528	712,417
Santo Domingo	4,181	4,212	36,370	30,636
Cuba	----	87,470	258,076	695,033
Porto Rico	----	11,620	51,129	56,527
Argentina	74,113	74,208	829,997	912,671
Brazil	18,171	6,710	593,583	390,940
Colombia	5,927	9,962	54,277	45,300
Other South America	75,970	73,716	462,223	472,343

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	May—		Eleven months ending May—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	$1,810	$3,258	$71,516	$33,376
Mexico	13,297	24,758	143,001	221,224
Santo Domingo	.....	542	10,666	7,234
Cuba	.....	19,769	24,910	78,472
Porto Rico	.....	3,532	6,041	19,453
Argentina	473	2,246	59,967	59,935
Brazil	1,978	3,329	35,073	29,474
Colombia	2,183	2,768	31,383	26,361
Other South America	7,796	9,390	70,059	64,577

TARIFF CIRCULARS WITH REFERENCE TO CUBA.

The following tariff circulars have been published by Hon. G. D. MEIKLEJOHN, Acting Secretary of War for the United States, "by direction of the President:"

No. 71—May 25, 1899.—The regulations entitled "Coasting Trade of Cuba," on page 9 of the "Amended Customs Tariff and Regulations for Ports in Cuba in Possession of the United States," are hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

Officers of the customs in the Island of Cuba may authorize the clearance for foreign ports or ports of the United States of vessels under the distinctive signal and coasting permit of Cuba. In granting such clearances officers of customs will advise masters or owners that the United States does not assume any obligation for the protection of the vessel and the clearance does not exempt the vessel in foreign ports or ports of the United States from penalties or forfeitures of any description which may be incurred.

No. 72—June 2, 1899.—Paragraph 6 (tonnage dues), on page 8 of the "Amended Customs Tariff and Regulations for Ports in Cuba in Possession of the United States," is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

6. At all ports or places in Cuba there shall be levied the following tonnage dues until further orders:

	Per net ton.
(*a*) On entry of a vessel from a port or place not in Cuba	$0.20
(*b*) On entry of a vessel from another port or place in Cuba engaged at the time of entry in the coasting trade of Cuba	.02

(*c*) The rate of tonnage dues on a vessel which enters in ballast shall be one-half of the rate imposed by subdivision (*a*) or (*b*), and one-half the tonnage dues imposed on a vessel entering with cargo shall be refunded if the vessel clears in ballast.

(*d*) The tonnage tax on entries of a vessel from a port or place not in Cuba shall not exceed in the aggregate $2 per net ton in any one year, beginning from the date of the first payment.

The tonnage tax on entries of a vessel from other ports or places in Cuba shall not exceed 40 cents per net ton in any one year, beginning from the date of the first payment.

No. 73—June 4, 1899.—Rules 10, 11, and 12 of Disposition VI, on pages 41 and 42 of the "Amended Customs Tariff and Regulations for

Ports in Cuba in Possession of the United States," are hereby amended so as to read as follows, in one consolidated paragraph:

10, 11, and 12. When in one container merchandises are imported with pay by net weight with others which pay by gross weight or by unities, whether they have the same or different tares, said merchandise will pay the duties that correspond to them by net or dutiable weight, without any benefit of tare, and the exterior container will be appraised by its total weight by the paragraph corresponding to the matter of which it is made.

No. 74—June 4, 1899.—The rules relating to surtax on classes 6 and 7 of the "Amended Customs Tariff Regulations for Ports in Cuba in Possession of the United States" is hereby abolished.

No. 75—June 7, 1899.—Subdivision (*a*) of paragraph 8, on page 47 of the "Amended Customs Tariff and Regulations for Ports in Cuba in Possession of the United States," is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

(*a*) A product from petroleum known under the name of cordage oil, imported by and used exclusively for cordage works in their manufacture of rope and cordage, provided that the importation be made at the direct demand of the president of the cordage company, and that the latter submit their works at all times to the inspection of the customs authorities, and that the importer give such bond as may be regarded necessary by the acting collector, G. W., 100 kil $0.70

STATISTICS OF THE SILK INDUSTRY.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received from the "Silk Association of America," founded in New York City in 1872, a copy of its annual report, in which is incorporated the addresses delivered on the occasion of the "anniversary banquet" of the association on February 2, 1899. The secretary in his annual report says that the year 1898 was "an eventful" one in the history of the silk industry in the United States. "It has witnessed the first year's operation of the Dingley Tariff Act, approved by President McKinley July 24, 1897. By that act specific duties are largely applied to imported silk goods instead of exclusively ad valorem rates, as heretofore. The first noticeable result is that although the volume of foreign textiles imported decreased $3,500,000 in its first year, the revenue duty collected by the Government was about the same. The second * * * is that the average rate of duty on all foreign silk goods entering into home consumption in the year ended June 30, 1898 (eleven months under the new act), is higher than it has been for fifteen years, and is 7¼ per cent greater than for the year 1897. * * * Silk threads, or yarns, or spun, were entered for consumption to the value of $1,224,854, and paid an average duty reduced to *ad valorem* of 37.8 per cent; all classes of textiles, including velvets, plushes, laces, embroideries, knit goods, and wearing apparel to the value of $21,410,192, paid an average duty of 55 per cent reduced to *ad valorem*. Specific duties have also opened up to our domestic industry a number of articles which, under the former *ad*

valorem rates of duty were considerably undervalued, and which could not previously be profitably manufactured" in the United States.

Silk weaving in the United States is best illustrated by the following table of production, compiled by the association:

Year.	Broad goods.	Ribbons.
1873	$2,847,917	$2,652,011
1880 (census year)	11,224,895	6,023,100
1881	13,332,194	6,213,804
1883	12,989,310	9,034,650
1890 (census year)	25,096,776	17,081,447
1898 (estimated)	40,000,000	20,000,000

The growth of the industry in the United States in recent years is shown by the greatly increased consumption of raw silk and by the diminishing volume of imported silk goods.

In January, 1899, there were silk mills in 28 States, ranging in number from 1 to 257. The total number of mills was 861, located in 228 towns. Of the total number of mills nearly six-sevenths (657 out of 851) were in the States of New Jersey (257), New York (228), and Pennsylvania (172). These employ over 27,000 power looms for broad silk weaving and 6,000 power looms for ribbon weaving. The number of new mills and firms added to the industry in 1898 aggregated 49. In the State of Pennsylvania alone mills for broad silk weaving have been established in the past two years in 16 towns and villages, and plants for throwing and ribbon weaving in 13 additional towns. The importation of raw silk in 1898 aggregated 10,315,162 pounds, valued at $31,446,800, which was an increase of 3,791,550 pounds and $12,959,856 over the imports of 1897.

RECIPROCITY TREATY WITH BARBADOS.

A reciprocity treaty between the United States and Great Britain in relation to the trade between the United States and the British Colony of Barbados was signed at the Department of State in Washington on June 16, 1899. This is the first treaty framed in accordance with section 4 of the Dingley tariff law, and the first of a series of treaties which the British colonies to the south of the United States are trying to effect. The treaty with Barbados is for a term of five years, but as the treaty must be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent, the Department of State is not in a position to make its terms public for the present.

Section 4 of the existing tariff law provides for the reduction "of not more than 20 per centum (of the duties) upon such goods, wares, and merchandise as may be designated therein of the country or countries with which such treaty or treaties shall be made, as in this section provided for; or shall provide for the transfer during such period from the dutiable list of this act to the free list thereof of such goods and

merchandise, being the natural products of such foreign country or countries and not of the United States."

Sugar is the chief product of Barbados, the trade of 1898 amounting to $2,208,000. The articles sent to the island by the United States are principally foodstuffs. Almost all the manufactured goods have heretofore come from Great Britain. In times past the United States Consuls have called attention to the demand in Barbados for butter, canned goods, carriages, bicycles, electrical equipments, and cement.

Consul MACALLISTER says, in the "Commercial Relations of the United States for 1898," page 108, that the imports at Bridgetown in 1897 were $5,043,495, against $5,244,435 in 1896. The imports from the United States for that year showed a decrease of $175,886. Foodstuffs to the value of $1,253,895 came from the United States in 1897, against $483,755 received from Great Britain. On the other hand, the manufactured goods furnished by Great Britain amounted to $658,785, while the United States supplied only $116,600 worth.

The exports for 1897, according to the same authority, exceeded those of 1896 by $90,674, making a grand total of $3,680,000. The total quantity of sugar exported in 1897 was 67,609 hogsheads. Manioc (tubers of a plant resembling the yucca of Venezuela) was shipped to the value of $18,800, of which the United States took $12,967 worth.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES IN 1899.

Contrary to the anticipations of the officials of the Treasury Department, the Government expenditures during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, exceeded the receipts by nearly $88,875,989.26. On June 1 the officials predicted that the deficit might not exceed $100,000,000, but at no subsequent time was it expected that the amount would be reduced below $95,000,000.

The smaller amount is accounted for by the exceptionally heavy receipts from customs and internal-revenue sources and the marked falling off in expenditures during June. Receipts for the month of June were: Customs, $18,466,907; internal revenue, $25,606,859; miscellaneous, $3,073,147; total, $47,126,915. The disbursements during the month were $31,382,762. For the entire year the receipts were divided as follows: Customs, $206,507,812.15; internal revenue, $273,-142,490.30; miscellaneous, $36,566,442.97; total, $516,216,474.42. The disbursements during the year were grouped under the following heads: Civil and miscellaneous, $119,225,598.68; war, $229,041,001.99; navy, $64,734,479.78; Indians, $12,799,983.70; pensions, $139,394,945.51; interest, $39,896,925.02; total, $605,092,734.68. The receipts exceed those of the fiscal year 1898 by $111,705,664. Of this increase, $56,688,218 was due to customs and $103,199,451 to internal revenue, while the miscellaneous receipts decreased $48,182,005. The cash balance in the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year stood at $281,380,468.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

At the beginning of this year the Director of the Mint published some preliminary figures relating to the production of gold in 1898. According to the estimates made, the total production of the United States, including Alaska, was then $65,782,677, which shows an increase of $8,400,000 over the preceding year. The said official has just published his final statement, which confirms in many respects what was previously published, although it differs as regards the total production, which was about $1,400,000 less than the original estimate.

The principal gold-producing sections of the country in the year mentioned were, in the order of their importance, the following: Colorado, California, South Dakota, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, Georgia, and South Carolina.

With respect to the production of silver, an increase has also been noticed, though slight. The principal States producing this metal were Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho, and California. Other sections of the country also produced silver, though in smaller quantities. The production of this metal in 1898 amounted to 54,438,000 fine ounces.

It is believed that the amount of gold which will be produced by the United States in 1899 will, more or less, equal that of the last year. It is estimated that from the Klondike region in Alaska alone there will be taken out this year yellow metal to the value of $20,000,000.

RECIPROCITY TREATY WITH JAMAICA.

A reciprocity treaty between Great Britain, for Jamaica, and the United States was concluded at the Department of State at Washington on July 1, 1899. The details were arranged by Hon. JOHN A. KASSON, Special Commission Plenipotentiary under the United States tariff act, and Mr. REGINALD TOWER, the British chargé d'affaires. The treaty has beeen forwarded to Kingston for the approval of the colonial authorities, and when this is given, the formal signing of the instrument will occur. The details will not be made public until after the ratification of the treaty by Congress.

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CONSULS.

On July 6, 1899, a notice was issued by the Department of State that President MCKINLEY had officially recognized the following Central and South American consular officers: MÓNICO CÓRDOVA SERRA as Consul-General, and E. HERMÁNDEZ as Vice Consul for Honduras, at New Orleans, La.; FIDEL GARCÍA, as Consul-General of Ecuador, at New York City; EUGENE ALEXANDER BRESLER as honorary Consul of Venezuela, at Detroit, Mich.; and H. RENJES as Consul for Chile at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands.

DUTIES ON HIDES.

According to the "Butchers' Advocate," June 21, the following changes have been made by the appraiser of the Port of New York in the duties assessed on imported hides:

Progreso wet-salted hides, 14 cents per pound; City of Mexico wet-salted, 35 cents per kilogram; Paita, Peru flint-dry, 23 to 24 cents per pound; dry-salted, 20 to 21 cents; Limon, C. R. dry-salted, 55 cents per kilogram; Savanilla and Carthagena, $8.50 to $9 (paper) per kilogram, an advance from $7.

URUGUAY.

SEMIANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Under date of April 19, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, United States Minister to Uruguay, transmitted to the Department of State at Washington a report on the earnings of the Central Uruguayan Railway and its northern and eastern extensions. This is the principal railway system in the Republic. The length in miles of the main road is 199, having an invested capital of $13,760,421 (United States currency). The Northern Extension is 182 miles long, with a capital of $7,960,490. The Eastern Extension is 360 miles in length, with $14,780,374 capital. This gives a grand total of 741 miles of road and a combined capital of $36,501,285. According to a report submitted by Mr. ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul at Montevideo (April 2, 1899); in addition to the Central, there are the following other railway systems in Uruguay, taking them in the order of their capital: Western Railway Company, 323 miles, $12,150,000 capital; Great Eastern Company, 260 miles, $10,192,951; Midland Company, 196 miles, $7,703,989; Northwestern Company, 110 miles, $4,935,500; Central Northeastern Company, 77 miles, $3,888,000; Northern Company of Uruguay, including branch (1.8 miles) to San Eugenio, 71.8 miles, $2,857,867; Northern Railway Company, 14 miles, $740,440; Interior Company, 385 miles (not yet built), $15,011,187. Including the last-named company, the total length of the railways of the Republic is 2,177.8 miles, with a capital of $93,971,179.

With regard to the railways of the Republic, Mr. SWALM, in his report, heretofore referred to, says:

The railway system of Uruguay is well planned for the service of the State, and the State has been and is yet the guarantor of interest—at one time at the rate of 5 per cent, but now 3½ per cent—on a value of £5,000 ($24,432) per kilometer (0.621376 mile) on the bonds outstanding. * * * The railways are permitted to make their own tariffs. The Government recognized the right of capital employed to earn a protective interest. If it fails in this, the Government must make up the difference.

This deficit has amounted to $5,875,628.20 in the seven years from and including the years 1892 and 1898, or an average of $839,375.46

per year. The least amount paid was in 1895—$775,286.15—and the greatest in 1897—$894,602.70.

All the fuel for the motive power of the roads is imported from Wales, and the machinery, rails, and general outfittings come from England. * * * The construction of the lines can be classed from excellent to first class, and the best of English methods somewhat conservative, yet safe, have been employed. * * * The rolling stock is good, but it does not compare in any way with the equipment on similar lines in the United States. On none of the lines at present is a through passenger train operated; the trains are all mixed, that is, freight and passenger cars in the same train. * * * Some of the passenger equipment is of American manufacture (Hollingworth) and it gives the best of service and satisfaction. One can not fail to appreciate the scrupulous cleanliness that marks the care of the passenger equipment at all times. The general station at Montevideo is the most modern and complete in South America. * * * In its general arrangement it deserves to rank with first-class stations of the larger cities and would be deemed a great credit to any railway company in the United States. * * * It was opened to the public service July 15, 1897. * * * The mechanical staff, heads of departments, engine men, and machine-shop chiefs are almost exclusively Europeans (English and Scotch predominating); but many young men, native to the country, are working into positions of responsibility. Station masters as a rule are natives, but in all larger stations Englishmen and native assistants are found. A very thorough and constant inspection is kept up and great care is shown in the operating department, an accident or derailment being rare.

The opportunities for North Americans obtaining employment on the railway lines in Uruguay are few and not at all certain. The wages paid do not compare favorably with those in the United States, and the standard of living is also low, the labor markets being principally supplied by Italians.

The report submitted by Mr. FINCH says that—

The gross receipts of the Central Uruguayan Railway (which has its headquarters in Montevideo) for the half year have been £148,885, against £139,838 in 1897, and the working expenses £85,987, against £72,314, leaving the net receipts £62,898, against £67,524 in 1897. Adding interest, etc., and deducting debenture interest, rents, etc., there is a disposable balance of £24,905. The past half year has been characterized by continual political unrest pending the Presidential election, which greatly disorganized the ordinary commercial business of the country, but in spite of this there has been a fair increase in the traffic of the line generally, and the gross earnings consequently show an improvement as against those of the corresponding period; but the board regret that owing to the increase in the expenses the actual results of working the railway for the first six months of the financial year show a falling off of £4,625. This is due to various unavoidable causes, and the board think that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the net results must not be looked upon as wholly unsatisfactory. The board have decided to pay an interim dividend for the half year at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, free of income tax, carrying forward a balance of £4,905.

Central Uruguay, northern extension.—After providing for debenture interest, the net revenue account to December 31, 1898 (made up of the profits of working and the moneys received under the amended guaranty arrangement), shows a balance of £17,256, out of which the directors have to pay an interim dividend of 3 shillings per share on the share capital of the company (at the rate of 3 per cent per annum), carrying forward a balance of £2,266.

Central Uruguay, eastern extension.—After providing for the debenture interest, the net revenue account of December 31, 1898 (made up of the profits of working and

the moneys received under the amended guaranty arrangement), shows a balance of £15,318, out of which the directors have decided to pay an interim dividend of 3 shillings 6 pence per share, free of income tax, on the company (at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum), carrying forward a balance of £3,068.

PROPOSED HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS AT MONTEVIDEO.

Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH writes to the Department of State at Washington from Montevideo, under date of May 12, 1899, in regard to the proposed harbor improvements at that port.

In the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1898 (p. 447), there was published a report from ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul, relative to these improvements. At that time the necessary funds for the completion of the works were not available, but it now appears from the Minister's report that the Minister of Public Works of Uruguay has matured a scheme for providing money to pay the cost of construction, and has approved the plans and specifications on which intending bidders shall base proposals. The National Congress has these plans under consideration, and, as soon as adopted, copies will be sent to the Department of State at Washington. The expenditure involved will not be less than $15,000,000, and may possibly reach $20,000,000.

Mr. HOWARD, the Vice-Consul at Montevideo, urges that a representative of some United States firm be sent at once to Uruguay equipped with documents bearing official indorsement to satisfy President CUESTAS and his Cabinet of the financial ability, skill, and capacity of the parties whom he represents to carry out the work in accordance with the plans and specifications. He says that the representatives from France and England will be in Montevideo provided with such indorsements, and that they have already given notice that money is available, and that the work shall be prosecuted and completed under the direction of the most skillful engineers. Mr. FINCH says that citizens of the United States sent on this mission with suitable indorsements will be shown every courtesy in Uruguay. Mr. SWALM reports that the conditions of the harbor at Montevideo are not very dissimilar to those at Galveston, Texas, in the United States.

HEATING AND COOKING STOVES.

Mr. ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul at Montevideo, under date of May 10, sends the Department of State at Washington a communication containing the result of his investigations relative to the prospect for an increased trade in stoves between the United States and Uruguay. The Consul says that fully 95 per cent of the houses in Uruguay have no heating arrangements, consequently during the winter season, from April to October, the dampness is more unpleasant than crisp and snappy cold would be. As a result, there is an enlarged percentage of deaths from pulmonary troubles, and a death rate out of all proportion to the general salubrity of the climate. Simpler forms of United States heating stoves are about the only ones seen in the

houses in Montevideo, and but one dealer in the city keeps them for sale. The oil stoves of the United States have found a good market in Uruguay, and bring about twice as much as their Belgian competitor. The cooking stoves are of heavy wrought iron, made in local factories from imported plate. They require about 50 per cent more fuel than those made in the United States. The latter are now being imported, and are especially preferred by the Europeans who have located in the country. The native stoves sell at from $20 to $70. The duty on stoves is 8 cents per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), including the package. This augments the cost so that an ordinary heating stove, costing from $7 to $8 retail in the United States, sells for three times as much in Uruguay. The cook stoves sell for about the same as those made in the country. They must be carefully and securely packed for shipment to the south.

APRIL STATEMENT OF THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Montevideo "Nación" publishes the balance sheet of the Bank of the Republic on April 30 (statement for the previous month was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, p. 2196), of which the following are the principal items:

Credit.—Unissued shares of second series, $5,000,000; unissued bonus shares, $1,962,366.30; various debtors of main office and branches, $8,195,018.98; value of deposits, $3,218,738; guarantee of judicial deposits, $750,000 nominal, in bonds of the extraordinary loan of 1897, at 64 per cent, $480,000; cash on hand, $4,986,039.42; total, $23,842,158.49.

Debit.—Nominal capital, $12,000,000; various creditors, $3,234,005.31; value of deposits, $3,218,733.29; judicial deposits, $397,416.64; service of the extraordinary loan, payments by the direction general of direct taxes, $84,168.55; notes in circulation, $4,720,202; reserve fund, $37,633; prevision fund, $150,000; total, $23,842,158.49.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TELEPHONE LINES.

The French legation at Montevideo has informed the French Government, according to the "British Trade Journal" of June 1 (p. 257), that several projects for the establishment of telephone lines at the State's expense are being considered by the Uruguayan Government. All communications and offers of supplies should be addressed to the "Dirección de Correos y de Telégrafos" at Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

IMPORTS FROM NEW YORK IN MAY, 1899.

Mr. ANTONIO E. DELFINO, Consul-General of Venezuela in New York, has forwarded the Bureau of the American Republics a copy of his report of the goods shipped to Venezuelan ports from the port of New York during the month of May, 1899. Accompanying this is a résumé of the statement of like shipments during the corresponding month of

1898. From these statistical tables it is learned that the net increase for 1899 was $63,386.23, which included $50,000 in gold coin, or a net increase in merchandise of $13,386.23 over the month of May, 1898.

The weight of the exports was 2,498,825.25 kilograms in 1898, and 3,260,892.17 in 1899. The total values were, respectively, $209,900.68 and $273,286.91. The amounts sent to each port in May, 1899, with the increase or decrease for each were as follows: La Guaira (including $50,000 in gold coin), $157,093.21; increase, $35,758.67. Maracaibo, $47,129.68; increase, $3,468.09. Puerto Cabello, $35,875.78; increase, $23,355,02. Ciudad Bolívar, $16,272.48; increase, $2,895.48. La Vela, $7,702.11; decrease, $2,608.89. Carúpano, $5,886; increase, $258. Guanta, $1,889.76; increase, $323,97. Cumaná, $927.84; decrease, $488.16. Caño Colorado and Güiria, $510.05; increase, $424.05.

The articles of merchandise shipped having a total valuation of more than $1,000 each were: Wheat flour, $37,833; lard, $36,979; groceries, $15,088.69; butter, $14,263.67; kerosene, $12,356; drugs and perfumery, $11,738.63; notions, $11,289.77; calicoes, $9,690.85; unbleached cottons, $8,906; printed and white cottons, $8,681.82; hardware, $8,197.49; cigarette tobacco, $7,733; cordage, $6,567.45; chewing tobacco, $5,582.44; machinery, $5,276.23; coal, $3,904; leaf tobacco, $3,175.59; paints and oil, $2,237.93; sails and sailcloth, $2,211; barbed wire, $2,164; axes and agricultural implements, $2,102; glassware and lamps, $1,454.35; small fruits, $1,453; soap and candles, $1,210; sewing machines, $1,078; rough lumber, $1,005.

EXPORTS FROM PUERTO CABELLO.

Under date of April 5, Mr. LUTHER T. ELLSWORTH, United States Consul at Puerto Cabello, transmits to the Department of State at Washington a carefully tabulated summary of the exports from the district which he represented. In addition, the names of the exporters and the different countries to which the products were shipped are included. From this report (published in full in the Consular Reports for June 27, 1899) the following statistics, representing the actual exports as detailed in the books and papers on file at the custom-house at Puerto Cabello, have been obtained:

Value of shipments: To France, $634,059; Cuba, $358,754; Germany, $155,724; United States, $124,725; Spain, $6,643; Italy, $6,004.

The goods purchased by France included coffee, cocoa, cacho, and copper ore; Cuba, jerked beef, cattle, and cassava; Germany, coffee, cacho, copra, and timber; Spain, coffee; Italy, coffee, cacho, and divi-divi. The shipments to the United States were: Coffee, 930,648 pounds, valued at $74,669; oxhides, 251,000 pounds, valued at $36,648; goatskins, 38,341 pounds, valued at $11,806; tonka beans, 485 pounds, valued at $245; deerskins, 196 pounds, valued at $196.

The article of greatest value exported was coffee, of which there were 6,459,328 pounds, valued at $844,931. Of this amount France

took 4,344,006 pounds, valued at $606,379; and Germany, 1,108,667 pounds, valued at $152,418. The item next in importance was 11,627 head of cattle, valued at $353,963, all of which were shipped to Cuba. All of the oxhides, goatskins, and deer hides were taken by the United States.

CONTRACT FOR A RAILROAD.

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul at Maracaibo, under date of April 29, 1899, forwarded to the Department of State the Spanish text and English translation of a contract entered into by the Government of Venezuela and LOUIS MUÑOZ FEBAR for the construction of a railroad. This road is to connect Puerto Cabello with Yaritagua, with San Felipe as a point for the termination of each of the two sections. The work of construction is to be commenced in ten months from the date of signing (April 12, 1899), and the first section is to be completed within two years and the second section within four years. The Government has agreed to allow the introduction, free of duty, of all materials, machinery, tools, and other articles necessary for the construction, preservation, and management of the railway, with the exception of such articles as are produced in the country. After the expiration of 99 years the railway, with all its appurtenances, is to become the property of the Government.

PROSPECTING FOR PEARLS.

A recent decree of the Department of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce of Venezuela grants the right to a United States corporation to examine the pearl beds existing on the coast. Pearl fishing, when Venezuela was a Spanish colony, was one of the great industries of that part of Spain's cis-Atlantic possessions, and the island of Margarita, now forming a portion of Venezuela, got its name from the number of pearls found on its coast. The new company is prohibited from fishing with rakes.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

An important law, looking to the amendment of the Constitution so as to revive the former political divisions of the country, has just been passed in Venezuela. The purpose is to revive the twenty States of Apure, Aragua, Barcelona, Barinas, Barquisimeto, Carabobo, Cojedes, Coro, Cumaná, Guárico, Guayana, Maracaibo, Maturin, Mérida, Margarita, Portuguesa, Táchira, Trujillo, Yaracuy, and Zulia, which constituted the Venezuelan Union in 1864.

TRADE OF MARACAIBO, APRIL, 1899.

The trade movement of the port of Maracaibo for the month of April, 1899, the figures of which are just to hand, shows that the articles shipped to New York were coffee, cacao, hides, goat and deer skins,

fish bladders, zapatero wood, lambs' wool, and heron feathers. The weight of the shipments was 1,241 tons, the greatest part being represented by 16,282 bags of coffee. The values are not given.

NEW POSTAL CARDS.

The following items are from the "Venezuela Herald" of June 13, 1899:

The former stock of postal cards having been exhausted, the Government has placed an order with the American Bank Note Company, of New York, for 25,000 single postal cards and 5,000 with answer prepaid.

REDUCTION OF BANK CAPITAL.

In accordance with the power granted by Congress on the 5th of May last to the President to modify the preliminary article of the contract made by the Government with the Bank of Venezuela on the 16th of March, 1897, and in view of the petition of the general body of shareholders of that institution, dated the 5th instant, the President of the Republic has consented that the capital of the bank may be reduced from 15,000,000 bolivars ($2,895,000) to 12,000,000 bolivars ($1,956,000).

BOOK NOTICES.

The Government of Mexico has just published the revenue law and budget (Ley de Ingresos y Presupuesto de Egresos del Erario Federal) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1899. It makes a quarto volume of 200 pages.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received the report of the second census of the Argentine Republic, taken May 10, 1895. The report is most exhaustive, being published in three large volumes, covering 1,963 pages. It will be noticed more at length in the August number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

"Notes about Mexico" (Notizen über Mexico), by Count HARRY KESSLER (F. Fontane & Co., Berlin, 1898), is the modest title of an exceedingly handsome volume of some 200 pages, descriptive of a journey through Mexico. Chiefly in the form of a diary the author has, in a charming manner, given most entertaining descriptions of life and customs of Mexico.

This Bureau has just received copies of the first edition, issued June 8, 1899, of the "Courrier du Pérou." This newspaper, which deals with economical, political, and social subjects, is published weekly at Lima, Peru, in the French language. The scope of this publication, as set forth in the editorial column, has for its object to make known in Europe and elsewhere the real political, economical, and social conditions of Peru, and, secondly, to increase in every possible way, the commercial, industrial, and financial relations between France and this Republic, and vice versa.

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (Philadelphia) has published the addresses of THEODORE S. WOOLSEY, E. W. HUFFCUTT, A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, W. ALLEYNE IRELAND, CARL SCHURZ, W. C. FORD, ROBERT T. HILL, JOHN BASSETT MOORE, His Excellency WU TING FANG, and others, at the annual meeting of the academy on April 7–8, 1889, together with a report of the discussion following each address. This forms a volume of 216 pages, and is an important presentation of the arguments for and against the policy of national expansion.

Mr. ROBERT P. PORTER, who recently served as special commissioner for the United States to Cuba and Porto Rico, has made a careful study of present commercial and industrial conditions in Cuba, with reference to the opportunities presented there for American capital, enterprise, and labor. The results of his investigations, which, from the fact that the writer had special and unusual facilities for securing it, embody the freshest and most reliable information, are published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, in a volume of 428 pages, under the title "Industrial Cuba."

In the "Anglo-American Magazine" (New York and London) for July, 1899, Prof. WILLET M. HAYS has an article on "Wheat in the Northwest." The writer says that wheat has not received its due share of attention. "More energy has been expended upon improving pansies and orchids than upon the wheat plant, and those plants have been more profoundly changed in directions desired by man." But yet a reader of the most excellent article will discover from his description of the work carried on at the "experiment stations" of the Northwest that much has been done, not only to improve the cultivation of wheat and simplify the harvesting of the crops, but that there has been a great improvement in the varieties of the grain. Mr. HAYS describes the classes of wheat, how the grain is grown, the machinery used in harvesting and preparation for market, the methods of producing wheat hybrids, of cross-pollenating and improving the varieties, and of testing wheat on the farm, at the experiment station, the elevator, and in the mills.

"Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile, Promulgated May 25, 1833, with the Amendments Down to May 1, 1899," is the somewhat lengthy title of a pamphlet, pp. 36, issued from the press of "The Herald," Urbana, Ill., by Mr. C. W. TOOKE. With reference to this work its translator says: "It was made primarily for the use of a class in comparative constitutional law" (presumably for a college at Urbana). The fact that no such translation, including the recent amendments, had yet been printed in English is the excuse for presenting this pamphlet to the public.

With reference to the Constitution itself, he says:

It is, perhaps, not unfair to assert that the Constitution of Chile is more advanced than that of any other Spanish-American Republic, in the sense that its form

approaches more nearly to the actual governmental condition. The Constitution frankly recognizes the principle of centralization, and all questions as to the relative power of the executive and legislative departments were settled by the amendments adopted subsequent to the civil war of 1891. Similarity of institutions is not to be measured by the servile imitation of constitutional provisions, but the business of the statesman is to adapt the structure of government to the conditions that present themselves. The merit of having worked out a consistent system of government belongs to the statesmen of Chile, and the merit is none the less because the progress has been conservative and some of the reforms have been adopted only after a period of civil strife.

Announcement is made in PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen (No. 45, 1899, Volume V) of the measurement of the Bolivian Andes, by Sir MARTIN CONWAY during his journey in that country in the years 1898–99. The measurements were accomplished through triangulation by means of a 6-inch theodolite.

The following results are given:

	English feet.	Meters.
Mount Sorato:		
Illampu	21,523	6,560
Ancohuma	21,710	6,617
Ancohuma (lower peak)	20,738	6,320
Next summit south	19,700	6,005
Chachacomani	20,820	6,350
Next summit south	20,090	6,120
Condoriri	19,940	6,080
Cacaaca	20,560	6,270
Mururata	18,980	5,785
Illimani	21,015	6,405

As these measurements coincide practically with those formerly made by MINCHINS, the result is considered very satisfactory.

The supplementary number (127) of Dr. A. PETERMANNN'S "Mitteilungen" (JUSTUS PERTHES' Geographische Anstalt, Gotha, 1899), consists of a treatise in regard to the mountain formations and soil of northern Central America. It is from the pen of Dr. CARL SAPPER, who has produced it as the result of his investigations during the years 1888–1897. The work is a continuation of previous ones by the same authority, viz, "The Physical Geography of Guatemala" (PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen, supplementary, No. 113, 1893), "The Physical Geography of Chiapas, Tabasco, and Yucatan" (Boletín No. 3 del Instituto Geológico de México, 1859), and further a report to the Government of British Honduras (1896) not yet published. In the present volume the above-mentioned works are woven into a complete whole, to which is added the results obtained from a journey through Salvador and the western part of Honduras, extending from the western border of the Mexican States of Chiapas and Tabasco to the boundaries of Central America between Puerto Cortez and the Bay of Fonseca. The author states that he has confined his labors chiefly to the geology, orography, hydrography, and soil of the several districts, having heretofore treated cartographically the area of vegetable formation and the most important rain regions of northern Central America ("Das nördliche Mittelamerika," Brunswick, 1897; also PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen, 1897, vol. 6.

The contribution to scientific literature which Dr. SAPPER has made in his latest effort is most important, especially since he gives a careful review of the prevailing conditions and the state of present knowledge, supplemented by his own recent investigations. While primarily Dr. SAPPER has written for the scientist, and his readers will undoubtedly be found chiefly among colleagues engaged in kindred work, there is much to interest the general reader seeking information upon the countries treated.

The following maps are included in the volume:

I. Original Map of Northern Central America. Scale, 1:1,100,000.

II. Geological Map of Northern Central America. Scale, 1:1,100,000.

III. Sketch of a Surface Map of Northern Central America. Scale, 1:3,000,000.

IV and V. Geological Profile through Yucatan, Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala, etc. Scale of lengths, 1:250,000; scale of heights, 1:100,000. No. 1, Profile through Yucatan (1:800,000 and 1:40,000). Nos. 2 to 9, Profile through Chiapas and Tabasco. No. 9[a], Profile through British Honduras. Nos. 10 to 23, Profile through Guatemala. Nos. 24 and 25, Profile through Honduras.

The last volume of the "Statistical Yearbook" for the German Empire (Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich, 1899) has recently appeared. Important changes are noted in this year's publication, especially in regard to the statistics in reference to the foreign trade of Germany. The following tables show the value of German trade with Central and South America (expressed in millions of marks) for the year 1897 as compared with the two preceding years. From these statements it appears that German trade with Latin America had fallen off considerably in 1897 from previous years.

Exports, 1897.

[Expressed in millions of marks. One German mark is equal to $0.238]

To—	Value.	Per cent.		
		1897.	1896.	1895.
Brazil	50.2	1.3	1.6	2.2
Argentina	35.8	.9	1.2	1.1
Chile	27.0	.7	.9	1.3
Mexico	17.5	.5	.4	.5
Colombia	8.6	.2	.2	.1
Guatemala	3.3	.2	.3	.3
Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador	2.4			
Costa Rica	1.9			
Peru	6.4	.2	.2	.2
Cuba and Porto Rico	5.8	.2	.1	.1
Uruguay	5.6	.1	.3	.3
Venezuela	5.5	.1	.2	.2
Ecuador	2.9	.1	.1	.....
Philippines	2.3	.1	.1	.1
Haiti	1.4	.1	.....	.1
Dominican Republic	.6			
Bolivia	1.7	.....	.1	.1
Total	178.9	4.7	5.7	6.6

Imports, 1897.

[Expressed in millions of marks. One German mark is equal to $0.238.]

From—	Value.	Per cent.		
		1897.	1896.	1895.
Argentina	109.3	2.2	2.4	2.8
Brazil	100.4	2.1	2.2	2.7
Guatemala	29.0			
Costa Rica	4.4	.7	.9	.9
Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador	2.4			
Cuba and Porto Rico	12.9	.3	.3	.3
Mexico	12.7	.3	.3	.3
Haiti	8.6	.2	.3	.4
Dominican Republic	2.7			
Venezuela	10.9	.2	.3	.4
Uruguay	10.8	.2	.2	.2
Colombia	7.8	.2	.2	.2
Ecuador	7.5	.1	.1	.1
Peru	3.8	.1	.1	.1
Bolivia	2.9	.1	.....	.....
Total	326.1	6.7	7.3	8.4

In March, 1899, the Field Colombian Museum, of Chicago, published a valuable pamphlet of 56 pages (publication 33, Geological Series, Vol. I, No. 3) entitled "The Ores of Colombia from Mines in Operation in 1892," prepared by Henry Windsor Nichols, S. B., assistant curator. This is a description of the collection of ores, rocks, and minerals which was prepared by F. Pereira Gamba, a mining engineer of Bogotá, and exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition. This collection, the major part of which was afterwards donated to the Field Museum, merits attention for the light it throws upon the nearly unknown nature and mode of occurrence of the ores of one of the important gold-producing countries of the world; also because it approaches more nearly than is usual the ideal of what a collection in economic geology should be. The specimens which were left in the Field Museum have been studied by Mr. Nichols and the results of his investigations incorporated in the pamphlet referred to. In addition to the comprehensive catalogue, there is a description of the physical features and general geology of Colombia and of the different mining districts; also a list of the more valuable of the recent works bearing upon the geology and mineral resources of Colombia, together with some of the more useful older works, and a map of the mining regions of the Department of Antioquia and Tolima, compiled from standard atlases, the map published by the Bureau of the American Republics, and numerous other maps.

Boletín Mensual

DE LA

Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

Vol. VII. JULIO, 1899. No. 1.

NOMBRAMIENTO DEL SEÑOR W. W. ROCKHILL, COMO DIRECTOR PERMANENTE.

Como el General Russell Hastings, de Massachusetts, que fué nombrado Director permanente de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas el 20 de marzo de 1899, renunció antes de haber tomado posesión de su cargo, según se dijo en el Boletín Mensual correspondiente al mes de abril, el Honorable W. W. Rockhill, ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Grecia, fué nombrado por el Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos para suceder al mencionado Señor, de conformidad con las facultades que le fueron conferidas por la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas el 7 de abril de 1899.

El Señor Rockhill tomó posesión de su empleo el 20 de mayo próximo pasado.

EL PORVENIR DEL CAFÉ.

Las noticias últimamente recibidas sobre los daños ocasionados por las heladas á la cosecha de Santos, han demostrado cuán sensible es el mercado de café y cómo flaquea al impulso de cualquier acontecimiento que tienda á alterar las relaciones entre la oferta y la demanda. Sabido es que por más de dos años el precio de este importante artículo de comercio ha bajado notablemente, y es de suponer que cualquiera cosa que pueda reducir la cosecha del año próximo, dará por resultado un cambio completo en el aspecto del mercado y una alza considerable en los precios.

Aún no se ha olvidado la extraordinaria elevación en los precios que se verificó entre el mes de junio de 1886 y el de 1887. En el primero de estos dos años el precio de 8 centavos por libra, poco más ó menos, casi se mantuvo fijo, mientras que en el segundo la fluctuación fué enorme, de tal suerte que de junio de 1896 á junio de 1897 hubo una diferencia de trece centavos y cuarto por libra. La principal causa que ocasionó este cambio fué la mala cosecha del Brasil en 1887, pues en vez de ser de 6,000,000 sacos, como se esperaba, fué solamente de 2,000,000. Lo que en aquella época ocurrió puede ocurrir otra vez, si sobreviene algún desastre á las cosechas que se aguardan. Todo parece indicar que el café de Rio, conocido con el nombre de No. 7, ha llegado al precio más bajo á que se venderá por algún tiempo. En orden á mostrar la fluctuación que ha sufrido el café en el mercado de Nueva York, se pone á continuación una lista de los precios del café de Río No. 7 desde 1884 hasta el año corriente, inclusive:

Junio.	Centavos.	Junio.	Centavos.
1884	8	1892	11⅜
1885	6⅜	1893	15⅜
1886	7⅜	1894	15⅜
1887	20⅜	1895	14¼
1888	11⅜	1896	12⅛
1889	13¼	1897	6⅜
1890	16⅜	1898	6¼
1891	16¼	1899	6

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

EL COMERCIO EN PRODUCTOS AGRÍCOLAS DURANTE EL PRIMER TRIMESTRE DE 1899.

El Señor ERNESTO DANVERS, corresponsal especial del "Weekly Northwestern Miller," ha escrito de Buenos Aires, con fecha 5 de mayo de 1899, un interesante artículo que corre inserto en la página 1147 de dicho periódico, del cual se ha hecho el siguiente extracto:

El 1 de mayo se reunió el Congreso y el resultado del discurso del Presidente (del cual publicó un sumario el BOLETÍN MENSUAL de junio, página 2145) fué hacer subir como diez puntos la prima del oro; pero, para la fecha de la carta del Señor DANVERS, el mercado había recobrado su calma ordinaria y vuelto á bajar el premio. Dice el autor que el Banco Nacional va á acumular una gran reserva de oro y que el Congreso decretará una rata fija para el cambio de papel moneda por oro, rata que se crée estará entre 230 y 250.

Según las estadísticas comerciales correspondientes al primer trimestre del año en curso, las importaciones alcanzan á $29,821,072 en oro, ó sea un aumento de $3,740,876 comparado con el período correspondiente de 1898. Las exportaciones durante el mismo tiempo alcanzaron á $47,532,893, indicando un aumento de $3,562,088. El comercio de la Argentina con los Estados Unidos arroja un aumento de $1,616,759 en oro, en el ramo de importaciones y una baja de $158,211, en las exporta-

ciones. Las importaciones de maquinaria agrícola fueron como sigue: arados, 14,399; descascaradoras de maíz, 466; hoces, 14 toneladas; rastrillos de caballo, 918; guadañadoras y agavilladoras, 53; otras guadañadoras, 1,117; trilladoras, 4; cuyo valor total alcanzó á $356,112 en oro, lo que arroja un aumento de $286,000 comparado con el mismo período de 1898.

Los productos agrícolas exportados fueron: trigo, 364,372 toneladas, avaluadas en $9,182,167, oro; ó sea un aumento de 16,107 toneladas, aún cuando el valor disminuyó en $1,962,312; lino, 90,905 toneladas, avaluadas en $3,090,727, disminución, 4,866 toneladas y $69,664 en cuanto al valor; harina de trigo, 8,439 toneladas, avaluadas en $354,457, aumento, 1,786 toneladas y $61,935 en cuanto al valor; salvado ó afrecho 12,303 toneladas, por valor de $151,321, aumento 5,244 toneladas y $75,790 en cuanto al valor.

Para el 1º de mayo de 1898 se cotizaba el trigo en el mercado de Río á $12.50 por 100 kilogramos, contra $5.20 en la misma fecha de 1899. Para las mismas fechas, el lino valía $10 y $7.20 respectivamente por 100 kilogramos. La prima del oro para el 1 de mayo de 1899 era 132 contra 164 en mayo 1 de 1898.

Las siguientes estadísticas referentes á las importaciones y exportaciones de la República Argentina, durante el primer trimestre de 1899, se han sacado de la publicación "Review of the River Plate" de Buenos Aires, correspondiente al 13 de mayo.

Países.	Importaciones.	Exportaciones.
Reino Unido	$11,383,548	$4,674,386
Italia	3,698,244	1,223,826
Alemania	3,685,693	9,387,003
Estados Unidos	3,513,086	1,553,968
Francia	2,827,638	11,910,470
Bélgica	2,507,327	6,536,455
Brasil	1,040,970	1,713,048
España	645,742	354,823
Paraguay	292,607	52,997
Uruguay	129,607	734,643
Holanda	27,356	120,139
Portugal	23,733	9,407
Chile	19,082	123,011
Bolivia	7,566	112,881
Las Antillas	4,275	52,438
Otros países	14,598	2,107,770
Ordenes		6,865,628
Totales	29,821,072	47,532,893

BRASIL.

PROGRESO DE LA ELECTRICIDAD EN LA REPÚBLICA.

En una comunicación dirigida á su Gobierno, y que ha sido publicada en un periódico francés con fecha 15 de junio, el Cónsul de Francia en Río Janeiro dice lo siguiente:

Hasta la fecha, solamente casas norte-americanas y alemanas se han ocupado en la instalación, en los grandes centros del Brasil, de maquinaria eléctrica y de los aparatos necesarios para el alumbrado eléctrico, la tracción de carros urbanos y la fuerza motriz de algunas fábricas.

La más antigua de estas compañías eléctricas establecidas en Río es la "General Electric Company," corporación norteamericana, con sucursales en todos los Estados vecinos y que dispone de un gran establecimiento y de mucho capital. Debido á su influencia y á la importancia de su clientela, ha dominado por largo tiempo el mercado. También se debe á ella el establecimiento de los primeros teléfonos y de una parte del tranvía eléctrico de Battete y Santa Thereza. Los alemanes, sin embargo, no han perdido tiempo en entrar en activa competencia con esta compañía. Al principio, una casa alemana, representante de KRUPP & SCHUKERT, introdujo al mercado, por cuenta de comerciantes alemanes, gran cantidad de maquinaria y aparatos eléctricos, que fueron muy buscados y apreciados á causa de su bajo precio, y en estos últimos tres años una nueva casa alemana, estimulada por el buen éxito que tuvo la primera, se ha presentado en el mercado con un capital de 5,500,000 de marcos, y piensa comprar los tranvías eléctricos de Bahia y los teléfonos de Río. Otra compañía alemana desea hacerse dueña de los ferrocarriles de Sao Christovao.

Una nueva compañía eléctrica alemana, llamada la "Brasilianische Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft," se ha organizado en el Brasil y ha sido autorizada por decreto de 7 de abril de 1899, publicado en el "Diario Oficial," para hacer negocios en el país. Esta compañía, cuyo domicilio es en Berlin, y que cuenta con un capital de 5,000,000 de marcos, parece destinada á agrupar á su alrededor á todas las otras compañías alemanas que negocian en artículos eléctricos y á formar un gran sindicato. Los representantes de esta corporación están ahora tratando de comprar las principales cascadas en los alrededores de la capital, á fin de que las empresas proyectadas puedan disponer de toda la fuerza hidráulica que hayan de necesitar en lo futuro.

Una casa francesa de Río Janeiro compite ventajosamente con las casas alemanas y norteamericanas, y ha provisto á la ciudad de Petrópolis de más de la mitad de las 12,000 lámparas eléctricas que allí se usan.

Siguiendo los datos estadísticos de la aduana durante los dos primeros meses del año corriente, 1899, se dan abajo las cantidades de artículos eléctricos (máquinas, aparatos, alambre de latón, etc.) importadas en Rio Janeiro.

Estos artículos no figuran bajo un solo encabezamiento en el arancel general de aduanas, y ha sido necesario hacer un cálculo aproximativo, refiriéndose á las cifras correspondientes á las secciones 127, 178, y 186.

Artículos eléctricos (aparatos, alambres, materiales para aparatos y máquinas) introducidos en el mercado de Río Janeiro en enero y febrero de 1899.

Países.	Valor.	Equivalente en los Estados Unidos.
	Francos.	
Estados Unidos	55,000	$11,000
Alemania	21,000	4,200
Inglaterra	15,000	3,000
Bélgica	8,000	1,600
Francia	2,500	500
Otros países	4,000	800
Totales	105,500	21,100

A este respecto, es oportuno mencionar que la J. G. BRILL COMPANY de Philadelphia ha recibido un pedido de 130 carros urbanos eléctricos para el ferrocarril eléctrico de Sao Paulo, Brazil, que está ahora en construcción.

CHILE.

INFORME SOBRE FERROCARRIL DE ANTOFAGASTA Y BOLIVIA.

El informe de los directores del Ferrocarril de Antofagasta y Bolivia para el año que terminó el 31 de diciembre de 1898 dice que la línea funcionó con toda regularidad durante el año. Las entradas totales fueron de $5,611,863. El tanto por ciento que corresponde á la Compañía ha sido reducido á libras esterlinas cada mes, según el tipo medio de cambio, el cual durante el año fué como de 15§, y la cantidad ascendió á £160,506. A esto debe agregarse lo que produjeron las obras hidráulicas, á saber, £4,623, lo cual arroja un total de £165,129. La diminución en las entradas, comparadas con las de 1897, se atribuye principalmente á la baja en el cambio. El servicio de las acciones hipotecarias, el dividendo de seis por ciento sobre el capital social, y los gastos de administración ascendieron á £172,643. De las entradas totales, el tráfico de la Compañía de Huanchaca produjo $2,063,525, ó sea el 36.77 por ciento, y el resto, que fué de $3,548,338, ó sea el 63.23 por ciento, provino del público en general. Aproximadamente, las entradas del ferrocarril desde el 1° de enero hasta el 30 de abril de 1899 fueron por valor de $2,333,000, contra $1,525,000 en el mismo período de 1898. Las entradas en el mes de marzo fueron las más grandes de todas. Con el fin de mejorar el servicio de agua, los directores han resuelto que conviene extender lo más pronto posible la cañería, de conformidad con lo expuesto en informes anteriores, y con este objeto en mira han entrado en negociaciones con la Compañía de Huanchaca.

COLOMBIA.

NUEVO CABLE COLOMBIANO.

El Gobierno de Colombia ha celebrado un contrato con una compañía extranjera en el que otorga á ésta el derecho de tender y explotar un cable submarino entre el puerto de Ríohacha, Departamento de Magdalena, y Colón, haciendo conexiones con los puertos de Santa Marta, Colombia, y Cartagena. Todos estos puertos quedan al Atlántico. La compañía se compromete á abrir el cable al servicio público dentro de diez y ocho meses contados desde la fecha de la ratificación del contrato. El Gobierno se reserva el derecho de censura sobre los despachos que se envíen por esta línea en tiempo de guerra, y se estipula además que, de conformidad con lo que disponen las leyes del país, solamente los tribunales colombianos tendrán jurisdicción para resolver las cuestiones que ocurran entre el Gobierno y el concesionario.

CUBA.

LO QUE PROMETE LA COSECHA DE AZÚCAR.

Según informes llegados de Cuba, la condición de las cosechas en la provincia de la Habana y en la parte oriental de la de Pinar del Río es bastante satisfactoria. Los cañaverales se han desarrollado perfectamente, aunque las lluvias no han sido generales y copiosas. La sequía continúa aun en la parte central y en el extremo occidental de Pinar del Río. En Sagua la Grande se calcula que la producción de azúcar durante el año ascenderá á 200,000 sacos.

PRODUCCIÓN DE PIÑAS Y PLÁTANOS.

Todo parece indicar que la producción de piñas y bananas en Cuba aumentará notablemente dentro de poco tiempo. Algunas personas de los Estados Unidos se han dedicado desde hace seis meses al cultivo de frutas en la isla, pero en opinión de hombres entendidos en la materia, se necesitan muchos meses todavía para restablecer las plantaciones destruidas por la última insurrección.

ANTILLAS HOLANDESAS.

CURAÇAO.

El periódico "The Monthly Illustrator," de Nueva York, en su número de junio de este año, publica un interesante artículo sobre Curaçao, con hermosos grabados, escrito por Mr. BENEDICT REILLY.

La colonia holandesa de Curaçao comprende á la isla de este nombre, á las islas adyacentes de Aruba y Bonaire, á las dos islas situadas en el Paso de los Vientos, como 600 millas al noroeste, conocidas con el nombre de Sava y San Eustaquio, y parte de la isla de San Martín, también en el Paso de los Vientos.

El asiento del Gobierno y residencia del Gobernador es Curaçao. Dicho funcionario es nombrado por la Corona holandesa, y tiene un Consejo de doce miembros, llamado Corte Colonial, los cuales también son nombrados por el Soberano, después de haber sido designados por el Gobernador. Tres miembros de esta Corte son escogidos por el Gobernador para formar lo que se llama el Consejo Consultor. Hay también una Corte de Justicia, que se compone de un presidente, de dos magistrados nombrados por el Rey, y de otro nombrado por el Gobernador. El puerto de entrada es Curaçao, y los derechos de aduana son simplemente nominales. La renta principal proviene de los derechos de exportación, y los del fosfato han sido por años enteros

la primera fuente para el sostenimiento de la colonia. Curaçao tiene una población de cerca de 30,000 habitantes, de los cuales solamente unos 4,000 son blancos. Debido á lo seco de la atmósfera y á la uniformidad de la temperatura, el clima es muy favorable para las personas que padecen de reumatismo ó de afecciones pulmonares.

Los vapores de la línea "Red D," que son todos americanos, y que llevan las malas de Nueva York á La Guayra, tocan en Curaçao. Los principales productos de exportación de la isla son fosfatos, aloe ó acibar, sal, dividivi, corteza de naranja, pieles de cabra, cacahuates y sombreros de paja. La mayor parte de las provisiones y una cantidad considerable de otras mercancías, especialmente calzado, ferretería, maquinaria é instrumentos agrícolas son importadas de los Estados Unidos. El valor de toda la importación en 1896 fué de $1,185,066, y casi otro tanto en 1897.

HAITÍ.

RIQUEZAS DEL PAÍS AUN NO DESARROLLADAS.

El Profesor EDMUNDO ROUMAIN, hijo de ERNESTO ROUMAIN, que estableció en Wáshington la Legación de Haití durante la Administración del Presidente LINCOLN, vino á los Estados Unidos en el mes de junio, con el objeto de interesar algunos capitalistas en la explotación de minas en aquel país. El Profesor ROUMAIN es miembro de la Facultad de Medicina y Farmacia de Port au Prince, y ha dedicado mucho tiempo al estudio de las formaciones geológicas de su tierra. En una entrevista de que dió cuenta el periódico "The New York Tribune," del 29 de junio, se expresó como sigue al hablar de las riquezas aun no desarrolladas de aquella República:

En la parte norte de Haití y dentro de un círculo de varias leguas, se encuentran depósitos de cobre, hierro, níquel y yeso, aguas sulfurosos, piedra caliza estratificada y pórfido. Con cualquiera de estos productos se puede hacer una fortuna, y, sin embargo, ninguno ha sido explotado. Cuando los franceses dominaban el país, mantenían ocultas las minas á fin de no excitar la codicia de los ingleses, y desde la fundación de la República no se ha hecho esfuerzo alguno para extraer la inmensa riqueza que el suelo de Haití encierra. He traído conmigo muestras de minerales tomadas de la superficie de la tierra, y que deseo hacer analizar en la Univesidad de Columbia de Nueva York. El Gobierno me dará una concesión para explotar minas en esta región, y quiero organizar una compañía de capitalistas americanos á fin de dar principio á las operaciones lo más pronto posible. El Gobierno no puede vender sus propias minas, pero si puede vender la superficie del terreno, y aunque todo lo que yace debajo le pertenece, no puede enajenarlo. Hay que arrendar los terrenos.

En el tomo sexto del BOLETÍN MENSUAL se hacen numerosas referencias á la riqueza mineral de Haití. En la página 19 hay un informe sobre los depósitos de carbón de piedra, escrito por el ingeniero HENRI THOMASSET, y que fué enviado á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Ameri-

canas por M. J. N. LÉGER, Ministro de Haití en los Estados Unidos, quien hizo favorables comentarios sobre este particular. En la página 460 aparece un informe del Ministro de los Estados Unidos, Mr. POWELL, sobre el descubrimiento de mineral de hierro, y en la página 1773 este señor habla de los depósitos de carbón, hierro y cobre. También hace referencia, en la página 2166, á las minas de cobre é hierro. En un artículo que comienza en la página 1613, el Ministro de los Estados Unidos dice que el Gobierno de Haití desea que se invierta en la República capital americano que "ayude al desarrollo de las riquezas desconocidas del país."

HONDURAS.

NUEVA LÍNEA DE VAPORES BANANEROS.

El periódico "The New Orleans Picayune," en su número de 2 de julio, da una relación sobre un importante contrato que se firmó el día primero del mismo mes entre la Bluefields Steamship Company y los plantadores independientes de Honduras. Dice el escritor que esto hará que la mayor parte de los bananas que se exportan de Honduras venga al puerto de Nueva Orleans. Una comisión compuesta de tres personas, con un poder en debida forma para representar á 165 plantadores, vino á Nueva Orleans, y, en la fecha mencionada, se terminaron todos los arreglos para la transportación de dicha fruta. De conformidad con el contrato, la Bluefields Steamship Company recibirá cada mes 130,000 racimos de los mejores bananas de Honduras.

Los plantadores interesados en el negocio se hallan en la vecindad del puerto de Ceiba, pero también vendrán bananas de otros lugares. El contrato durará por cuatro años, y garantiza á la Bluefields Steamship Company el trasporte de la carga de Honduras á Nueva Orleans y vice versa. Los puertos hondureños comprendidos en el contrato son Puerto Cortés, Ceiba, y Trujillo. Estos son los tres puertos principales de la costa, y la carga perteneciente á los plantadores de esta sección representa las siete octavas partes de lo que se exporta é importa.

Mr. LOUIS BIER, que reside en Ceiba, y que probablemente será el agente de la Bluefields Steamship Company, se manifiesta seguro de poder aumentar la cantidad de bananas que se exportará mensualmente hasta 200,000 racimos. Dice que un plantador de la vecindad de Puerto Cortés exporta 50,000 racimos cada mes. El "Picayune" asegura que entre los traficantes en bananas de Nueva Orleans, el contrato es considerado como uno de los más importantes que se han hecho en muchos años. En él están interesados 165 plantadores, cuyas propiedades comprenden más de 200 plantaciones en el corazón mismo de la región donde la fruta se produce.

MÉXICO.

PROGRESO INDUSTRIAL DE LA REPÚBLICA.

Según un informe consular francés publicado en París el día 8 de junio de 1899, se ha formado una compañía con el objeto de establecer en el distrito de Atlixco una fábrica de hilos y tejidos de algodón, con el nombre de "Fábrica de San Agustín," que girará bajo la razón social de NORIEGA SANCHEZ Y COMPAÑÍA.

También se dice que una compañía americana piensa establecer en el país una gran fábrica de sombreros, habiendo autorizado ya á su agente para comprar los terrenos en donde ha de construirse dicha fábrica.

La misma autoridad anuncia que se acaba de formar en Londres un gran sindicato, cuyo objeto es fabricar grandes casas según los planos más modernos, sujetas á las más perfeccionadas leyes higiénicas. Dicho sindicato dispondrá de un capital de £10,000,000.

Se ha organizado en México una compañía anónima para la construcción de una gran fábrica de papel y acaba de comprar de la propiedad Lanzarote, cerca de Cuautitlán, los terrenos necesarios para el establecimiento de la planta. La maquinaria y los materiales, que se dió orden de comprar inmediatamente, serán comprados en Europa.

Los representantes de un gran sindicato méxicano han dirigido una solicitud al Ministerio de Fomento pidiéndo una concesión para establecer en México tres industrias nuevas, que son: una fabrica de objetos de caucho, ó hule; otra para la fabricación de aparatos para alumbrado eléctrico y otra para la trasmisión y empleo de fuerza motriz.

Entre las nuevas corporaciones constituidas según las leyes del Estado de New Jersey, figura la MEXICAN COAL AND COKE COMPANY, organizada el 29 de junio próximo pasado con un capital autorizado de $6,000,000. La compañía se ha formado para explotar minas de carbón y depósitos de petróleo y de gas en la República de México. Los fundadores son: JAMES F. GARDINER, HOWARD DUTCHER y JOHN L. ELLIOTT, de Nueva York; OSCAR BERGSTROM, de San Antonio, CHARLES M. CLARK, de New Brunswick; JAMES H. DEWEY de Hoboken, y E. VETOR FROTHINGHAM, de Brooklyn.

Se dice que el Presidente del Ferrocarril Central Mexicano, Mr. ROBINSON, calcula que México producirá oro en este año por valor de $12,000,000, y que en su opinión la producción alcanzará á $30,000,000 anualmente cuando las minas más ricas tengan comunicación por ferrocarril.

DEMANDA ACTIVA POR ARTÍCULOS MANUFACTURADOS.

El "New York Journal of Commerce" de 13 de junio publica un artículo referente á la actividad de las relaciones mercantiles entre los Estados Unidos y México. Dice el autor que aun cuando los efectos

de hierro y acero y maquinaria y efectos para ferrocarriles forman gran parte del comercio entre las dos Repúblicas, también hay activa demanda por artículos manufacturados de todas clases. En el espacio de una semana llegaron á la ciudad de Nueva York con destino á varios puntos de México 125 carros de tranvías, ya usados, para caballos. Los comerciantes no pudieron colocar contratos para nuevos carros y después de notificar á sus marchantes del estado de cosas en la industria de la fabricación de estos carros, se vieron obligados á comprarlos de relance.

La situación, por lo que respecta á rieles de acero, según se dice está produciendo alguna inquietud entre los comerciantes exportadores. Debido á la demanda extraordinaria que han tenido del país y del extranjero, fué con dificultad que lograron conseguir un wagón de carga completa que despachar á México. También se dice que la sufrido retardo el cumplimiento de contratos por materiales para puentes y otros productos de hierro y acero. La dificultad no depende del precio, sino de la entrega, pués es casi imposible para las fábricas abastecer la demanda extraordinaria.

En la semana que terminó el 1° de julio, se embarcaron de Nueva York para México mercancías con un valor total de $225,631. Los artículos principales fueron las manufacturas de hierro. Los rieles de acero exportados representaron un valor de $50,400, que es la cantidad más grande que se ha embarcado en una sola semana durante muchos meses. Materiales para puentes representaron un valor de $14,000; alambre de cobre, $7,000; material para ferrocarril, $7,000, y otros efectos de hierro, $12,000.

EL PULQUE COMO UN ANTIESCORBÚTICO.

Uno de los grandes productos nacionales de México, el jugo fermentado del maguey, conocido con el nombre de pulque, ha sido por algún tiempo objeto de estudio por dos hombres de ciencia enviados por el Museo Nacional de Wáshington. En el curso de sus investigaciones, los Doctores J. N. Rose y Walter Hough, que son los dos hombres de ciencia atrás mencionados, han averiguado que el Dr. Francisco Martínez Baca, médico mexicano, ha descubierto que la gran bebida nacional posee propiedades medicinales que hasta la fecha eran desconocidas, y que este facultativo la ha usado con buen éxito para erradicar los gérmenes del escorbuto, enfermedad de que los indios mexicanos han sufrido siempre. Se ha escrito tanto sobre el pulque en el Boletín Mensual, que no hay necesidad de repitir lo que se ha dicho acerca de sus propiedades generales; pero el curioso descubrimiento hecho últimamente de que dicha bebida abunda en bacteria merece llamar la atención. La teoría del Dr. Baca es que la bacteria introducida en el sistema cuando se bebe el pulque, ataca y destruye los gérmenes del escorbuto y erradica la enfermedad del sistema. Á

ruego del Gobierno mexicano, los Doctores ROSE y HOUGH investigarán con cuidado el nuevo descubrimiento, y el informe que den á este respecto será de sumo interés.

Durante años pasados, se han hecho esfuerzos para conservar el pulque y convertirlo en artículo de exportación, pero, en lo general, los resultados no han sido favorables. Avisan de México que el conocido capitalista Señor SALVADOR MALO ha solicitado de la Secretaría de Fomento una patente para un nuevo procedimiento mediante el cual el pulque puede conversarse por algún tiempo.

NUEVAS LÍNEAS DE VAPORES.

El Congreso mexicano acaba de aprobar un contrato celebrado entre el Secretario de Comunicaciones y Obras Públicas y Mr. ADAM BIRREL, representante de la Pacific Steam Navigation Company y de la Compañía Sudamericana de Vapores, con el fin de extender hasta los puertos mexicanos del Pacífico el servicio de vapores que estas compañías hacen ahora en la costa sudamericana. Los concesionarios son los mismos que en la actualidad tienen los vapores que hacen la carrera entre el Cabo de Hornos y Panamá.

Un nuevo servicio de vapores va á establecerse del 15 de julio en adelante entre Boston y los puertos mexicanos. En la fecha mencionada saldrá probablemente un vapor para Campeche, Veracruz y Progreso, tocando en la Habana y Matanzas. Se anuncia que las salidas serán cada quince días. El nombre de la nueva compañía es The Boston, Havana and Mexican Line. Esta compañía sirve de agencia en Boston á NATHAN DE SZANGARI É HIJO, de Campeche, que tienen agentes en todas partes de México y gozan de tarifas ventajosas en todas las líneas férreas de la República. La compañía ha fletado dos vapores de un porte neto de 1,500 toneladas cada uno, y aumentará el número de sus barcos á medida que los negocios lo permitan.

NUEVO PRESUPUESTO.

El presupuesto de egresos del Gobierno mexicano para el año económico de 1899–1900 divide los gastos entre los diversos departamentos del Gobierno del modo siguiente:

Poder legislativo, $1,020,443.35; Poder ejecutivo, $82,468.75; Poder judicial, $449,450.80; Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, $575,717.15; Secretaría de Gobernación, $3,934,284.40; Secretaría de Justicia é Instrucción Pública, $2,469,721.75; Secretaría de Fomento, Colonización é Industria, $941,222.21; Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Obras Públicas, $6,294,935.63; Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público: Servicios administrativos, $6,333,998.80; Deuda Pública, $21,449,600.00; Secretaría de Guerra y Marina, $12,476,786.76, lo cual da un total de $56,028,629.60 para el año fiscal. La Tesorería tiene en la actualidad un excedente de diez á doce millones de pesos.

NICARAGUA.

DOMINIO DEL MERCADO DE PLÁTANOS.

Los siguientes informes enviados por el Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en San Juan del Norte, Mr. SORSBY, en una comunicación dirigido al Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, fechado á diez de mayo de 1899, interesa á los comerciantes y consumidores de plátanos:

El monopolio de frutas que explota las Antillas y la América Central, cuyos principales asociados son el "Boston Fruit Co.," de Boston, MINOR C. KEITH, de Costa Rica, y otros, ha extendido sus operaciones hasta los platanales del Departamento de Zelaya (Distritos de Bluefields y Rama), en Nicaragua. Mr. J. LAMOTTE MORGAN, su representante, llegó á Bluefields el 28 del pasado y dirigiéndose al centro del distrito platanero, celebró contratos con casi todos los grandes agricultores de esta fruta. Mr. MORGAN me informa que el objeto de la sociedad que representa es establecer inmediamente una línea de vapores con el objeto dominar todo el comercio en plátanos de Nicaragua. La aparición de esta nueva corporación probablemente dará por resultado, por lo menos al presente, una alza en los precios del plátano y una baja en el de los fletes de la carga que se importa ó que se exporta. Dice Mr. MORGAN que el servicio de fletes y pasageros de la nueva línea será por todos respectos superior á los de la antigua compañía, siendo probable que se ponga un vapor pequeño, pero rápido, como buque auxiliar para hacer la carrera entre Puerto Limón, Costa Rica y San Juan del Norte, Bluefields y Cabo de Gracias, en Nicaragua.

PERÚ.

ÚLTIMOS CAMBIOS EN LA TARIFA.

En el Boletín Internacional de Aduanas de Bruselas, aparecen los siguientes extractos de leyes relativas á los cambios ocurridos en las disposiciones aduaneras de la República del Perú:

I. Extracto de la ley de 31 de diciembre de 1898, relativa á los derechos de consumo aplicables á las bebidas alcohólicas de todas clases.

En virtud de los artículos 1 y 2 de la expresada ley, las bebidas alcohólicas que á continuación se expresan, procedentes del extranjero y cuya internación por tierra queda prohibida, adeudarán en el acto de su despacho en las Aduanas maritimas ó fluviales los derechos señalados en la siguiente tarifa:

Para los artículos importados del extranjero.

		Sol
Cerveza	litro..	0.07
Ajenjo, anisado, cognac, kirsch, bitters, rom y amargos, y demás bebidas alcohólicas que no sean vinos	litro..	.40
Vino tinto ó blanco de Borgoña, del Rhin, Chipre, Jérez, Madera, Oporto, Cereza, Frontignan, Pajarete, Malvasia, Moscatel, Pedro Jimenez, Peralta y demás vinos generosos; el Asti y demás espumosos, que no sea Champagne, y el Vermouth	litro..	.30
Vino blanco ó tinto de Burdéos, el Carlón, Catalán, Priorato, San Vicente y demás de esta clase	litro..	.25
Champagne	do...	.50

II. Extracto de la ley de 14 de Enero de 1899, modificando el régimen aplicable á la importación, al consumo y á la exportación del tabaco, de los cigarros y cigarrillos

ART. 1. Los derechos de importación sobre el tabaco de todas clases y sobre los cigarros y cigarrillos que se introduzcan del extranjero al territorio de la República, serán específicos y en adelante se recaudarán en todas las aduanas conforme á la tarifa siguiente:

		Sol.
Tabacos de las zonas limítrofes en hoja, rama, guaña ó mazos	kil. neto	0.25
Tabaco de cualquiera otra procedencia, en hoja, rama, guaña ó mazos	do	.50
Tabaco de cualquiera procedencia, inclusive de las zonas limítrofes, de mascar, en polvo, picado ó de hebra y en general, el manufacturado en cualquiera forma que no sea la de cigarros puros y cigarrillos	kil. neto	1.00
Cigarros puros italianos	do	4.00
Cigarros puros de cualquiera otra procedencia	do	7.00
Cigarrillos de cualquiera procedencia, en cajetillas que no contengan más de veinticuatro cigarrillos	millar de cajetillas	75.00

ART. 2. Se cobrará en adelante en toda la República, una contribución en los lugares de consumo á toda clase de tabacos, cigarros y cigarrillos conforme á la siguiente escala:

		Sol.
1. Tabaco de procedencia nacional, en hoja, rama, guaña, mazo ó cualquiera otra forma	kil. neto	2.00
2. Tabaco de Méjico y Centro América	íd	2.20
3. Tabaco de las zonas limítrofes, en hoja, rama, guaña, mazo	íd	2.10
4. Tabaco extranjero de cualquiera otra procedencia, en hoja, rama, guaña, mazo	kil. neto	3.20
5. Tabaco extranjero de mascar ó en polvo	íd	2.00
6. Tabaco extranjero picado ó de hebra ó en paquetes ó cigarrillos, etc.	íd	3.00
7. Cigarros puros importados de cualquiera procedencia extranjera, en cajas ó á granel	kil. neto	2.50

* * * * * * *

ART. 4. Sobre todo tabaco manufacturado en el país en la forma de cigarros, cigarrillos, picado ó en hebra que se exporte para el extranjero, se devolverá al exportador, comprobado que sea el contenido de los envases y la importacíon á territorio extranjero, parte ó el total del impuesto, como sigue:

		Sol.
Tabaco nacional ó extranjero que se exporte ya picado para fabricar cigarrillos	kil. neto	1.00
El mismo ya enteramente manufacturado, en cigarros puros ó en cigarrillos en cajas ó en cajetillas ó á granel	kil. neto	2.00

Esta devolución no se hará cuando los artículos exportados hayan sido fabricados con máquinas.

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ART. 7. Quedan derogadas todas las leyes de carácter general ó especial en cuanto se opongan á la presente.

RECIENTE DESCUBRIMIENTO DE MINERAL DE COBRE.

Un corresponsal del "Engineering and Mining Journal" ha enviado el siguiente informe, que publica dicho periódico en la página 663 del número correspondiente á junio 3:

"En la Isla de Santa, 4 millas al norte de Chimbote, encontré recientemente una vena de mineral de cobre. Me ocupo en despachar, en lanchas, dicho mineral que contiene 25 por ciento de cobre y una onza

de oro por tonelada de escoria. El mineral embarcado, libre de gastos á bordo del vapor, cuesta $1 por tonelada mientras que los gastos de extracción son $15 oro por tonelada. He encontrado también varias venas que prometen, cuyo mineral de cobre contiene desde un cuarto hasta tres onzas de oro por tonelada. Las muestras de mineral oxido-clórico dan hasta 46 por ciento de cobre. Mr. DUFOURGE se encuentra aquí, en representación de un sindicado de Nueva York del cual Mr. N. L. SELLECK es uno de los promotores, y se ocupa en examinar algunas de las propiedades. Dicho sindicado se interesa también en minas de carbón, del cual hay mucho en la parte superior del río Santa, á 105 kilometros de Chimbote, lo cual puede fomentar el desarrollo del ferro-carril de Chimbote pues este es el mejor puerto de la costa. Dicho ferrocarril no sólo serviría para el fomento de la región carbonífera, sino también para el de los ricos placeres y minas de oro de Palcasa y Pataz y de las otras minas de cobre y oro de todo el Departamento de Ancachs. La partida que acompaña á Mr. DUFOURGE cuenta entre otros al ingeniero civil, Mayor ALFREDO SEARS, y se espera que tan pronto como haya terminado el examen se dará principio á los trabajos activos.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 42 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento del Tesoro de los Estados Unidos, cuyo jefe es Mr. O. P. AUSTIN. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de mayo de 1899, corregida en junio 28 del mismo año, comparada con la del período correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los nueve meses que terminaron en mayo de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento del Tesoro hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de mayo, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en julio.

DESARROLLO EN LAS CONSTRUCCIONES NAVALES.

El informe del Comisionado de la Navegación en el Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, para el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, demuestra el desarrollo sin paralelo en la historia de

la construcción naval en América. Actualmente se están construyendo en los astilleros de este país para los Estados Unidos y para el extranjero, más de 50 buques de guerra, avaluados en más de $40,000,000, sin contar blindaje y armamento, y más de 200 buques mercantes de gran tamaño, cuyo valor, en conjunto, excede de $30,000,000. Durante el tercio de siglo empleado en el desarrollo de la industria de construcciones navales de hierro y acero en los Estados Unidos, no ha ocurrido un solo año en el cual se haya desarrollado tan rapidamente ó hayan sido tan numerosas ó radicales las innovaciones introducidas como en el año pasado. Los triunfos recogidos por los Estados Unidos en el comercio extranjero están convenciéndo á todo el país de que el desarrollo de los intereses navales no es asunto que concierna tan solamente al constructor ó al propietario de buques. El desarrollo de la marina mercante y de la industria de la construcción naval en los Estados Unidos, han corrido parejas bajo el estímulo ambas de la gran actividad industrial que ha seguido á la guerra ibero-americana. La industria de la construcción de buques recibió beneficios especiales de la gran demanda sobre la propiedad particular hecha por el Gobierno, al comprar para buques auxiliares de su flota naval todos aquellos de que tuvo necesidad.

En las esferas navales debe reconocerse la utilidad que se desprende de los acontecimientos más notables de la citada guerra, por cuanto respecta á la importancia del empleo de maderas á prueba de fuego, la necesidad de buques adjuntos á todos los escuadrones navales, provistos de cuanto es necesario para la reparación de los navíos, y la necesidad de tener buques trasportes construidos especialmente para él de las tropas. El Ministerio de Marina de los Estados Unidos ha continuado cumpliendo el programa naval más extenso que jamás haya tenido, y el Congreso ha autorizado la adopción de otro, más extenso aun, que debe llevarse á cabo durante los próximos dos ó tres años. En él que acaba de terminar se ha completado una flota respetable por cuanto se refiere al número y al tamaño de los buques para el servicio de la costa del Atlántico, en la cual se cuentan las flotas pertenecientes á las líneas "Cromwell," "Morgan," "Ward," "Merchants and Miners'," "Old Dominion," "Plant," "Old Bay," y casi todas las principales que hacen el servicio costanero. Para él de la costa del Pacífico se están fabricando mayor número de buques modernos de acero para carga y pasajeros, de lo que se ha construido en los tres años anteriores juntos. En los ríos del oeste han hecho su aparición cascos de acero, y parece que la flota fluvial se reconstruirá practicamente según este plan. Los astilleros de todo el país tienen pedidos suficientes para continuar trabajando todavía de uno á tres años.

En los astilleros de los Estados Unidos se encuentran al presente los buques mercantes y navíos de guerra más grandes que se han construido en el continente americano. Todos los astilleros, grandes y pequeños, se están desarrollando. En Newport News, Virginia, solo las mejoras que se están haciendo costarán $2,000,000. El nuevo dique

seco de madera que está en vía de construcción para la NEWPORT NEWS SHIP-BUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY, será tan superior á cualquier otro de su clase, que podrá contener, simultaneamente, dos buques de guerra de tamaño ordinario. El dique flotante del Gobierno que se estacionará en Algiers, Louisiana, será superior á los otros que para Stettin y la Habana idearon sus fabricantes. En Delaware se está montando un astillero de $3,000,000, y en proyecto hay la construcción de uno con un capital de $1,000,000. La compañía conocida con el nombre de MARYLAND STEEL COMPANY se vió obligada por presión de trabajo á abrir otra vez sus talleres, en los cuales, seis meses después, tenía en vía de construcción siete vapores de acero. La energía desplegada por la WILLIAM R. TRIGG COMPANY ha convertido á Richmond, Virginia, en un puerto para construcciones navales. La extensión general del empleo de instrumentos neumáticos para la construcción de buques de acero es uno de los rasgos característicos del progreso alcanzado en el año, así como también lo es la introducción de armazones del sistema de modillones ó "cantilever" y otros aparatos empleados para reducir el costo, facilitando las operaciones que se ejecutan en los astilleros.

En los Grandes Lagos los principales talleres de construcción naval se han refundido en la compañía denominada AMERICAN SHIP-BUILDING COMPANY, que tiene á su cargo el desempeño de varios pedidos por buques de carga de 9,000 toneladas netas de capacidad y 18 pies de calado que no habrán de entregarse hasta mayo de 1900, pero cuyo trabajo debe comenzarse á la mayor brevedad, pues habrán de costar aproximadamente $350,000 cada uno. El total de buques que se construyen hoy en los astilleros de los Grandes Lagos representa un valor de $6,000,000, y todo indica que continuará así por dos años más, no obstante el alza en el precio que hoy alcanza al trabajo, el material y toda especie de efectos.

WILLIAM CRAMP & SONS, de Filadelfia, y THE UNION IRON WORKS, de San Francisco, han terminado los primeros buques de guerra fabricados desde hace muchos años en los astilleros americanos para potencias extranjeras. Han comenzado á fabricarse en los Estados Unidos vapores para el uso de compañías sin escala fija. Los distritos de Nueva Inglaterra esperan que haya mucha actividad en la construcción de buques de madera, habiéndose hecho un pedido de un buque de seis mástiles y 5,500 toneladas de peso muerto. Puede también mencionarse el vapor de poco calado y rueda á popa de cuyo tipo se han construido muchos en las costas del Atlántico y del Pacífico para el servicio en las aguas de poco fondo de Alaska; y en los Grandes Lagos se fabricaron vapores de cerca de 3,000 toneladas de capacidad y 14 pies de calado para el comercio especial de los lagos, y que también pueden llevarse por los canales de Welland y San Lorenzo á las aguas del Atlántico, en donde parece que habrá buen comercio por algún tiempo no sólo entre los puertos de la costa oriental sino también entre Nueva York, Cuba y Puerto Rico.

También se han hecho progresos, no menos rápidos, en la construcción de buques de recreo. La fábrica que lleva el nombre de "Bath Iron Works," de Bath, Me., hace poco terminó el yate de vapor de mayor potencia que se ha fabricado para un particular, y el número de pedidos recibidos durante el año alcanza á cerca de 40 yates de vapor, que varían de 60 á 303 pies de largo, ya terminados ó en construcción en los astilleros de los Estados Unidos. La construcción del *Columbia* por los Herreshoffs para la regata internacional que se verificará en el otoño de 1899 indica el interés general que todavía hay por los buques de vela.

Los Estados Unidos han aprendido mucho de los constructores de buques extranjeros, y por lo que parece los fabricantes ingleses se inclinan á prestar mayor atención al desarrollo de los acontecimientos en este país. Una casa de los Estados Unidos acaba de enviar á los fabricantes de Belfast una gran consignación de planchas para el *Oceanic*, que es el buque más grande que se ha construido hasta ahora, y la prensa técnica á una voz conviene en que los Estados Unidos serán rivales futuros de la Gran Bretaña en cuanto se refiere á construcción y el número de buques de su propiedad.

Lo anterior es en resumen un artículo publicado en la "Marine Review" de Cleveland, Ohio, reproducción de los informes que aparecen en la edición del "Blue Book of American Shipping for 1899," publicado por el "Marine Review Publishing Company." Dicho "Blue Book" tiene más bellas ilustraciones este año y su forma es más manuable que nunca. No sólo es un libro de referencia para los constructores y dueños de buques, arquitectos navales, comerciantes y fabricantes interesados en la materia, sino que contiene también 100 ó más páginas dedicadas á estadísticas del comercio por las vías acuáticas é informes generales acerca de la marina mercante y de guerra. La parte del directorio contiene informes detallados sobre buques americanos de vela y de vapor, con los nombres y señas de los propietarios, divididos entre buques costaneros, los de los ríos del oeste y los grandes lagos; también contiene listas de los dueños de buques, constructores de buques y maquinaria, arquitectos navales é ingenieros navales, capitanes de buques y miembros de varias asociaciones, á que pertenecen individuos de la marina mercante y de guerra; informes acerca de los buques de guerra americanos, directores de las oficinas del Gobierno, tanto en los Estados Unidos como el Canadá, relacionadas con la marina de vapor y de vela, comprendiendo los buques que viajan al extrangero, y dando detalles acerca del servicio, los mejores buques y los nombres y señas de los gerentes de las respectivas compañías.

DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS SOBRE LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA.

La Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha recibido una copia del Informe Anual de la sociedad conocida con el nombre de "Silk Association of America," que fué fundada en Nueva York en 1872. En

dicho informe vienen incluidos los discursos pronunciados en el banquete que se verificó el 2 de febrero de este año, con motivo del aniversario de la fundación de la sociedad. El Secretario dice en su informe anual que el año de 1898 fué un año extraordinario en la historia de la industria de seda en los Estados Unidos. Durante ese año el nuevo Arancel de Aduanas, aprobado por el Presidente McKinley el 24 de julio de 1897, estaba ya vigente. Según este arancel, los géneros de lana pagan derechos específicos en vez de pagarlos ad valorem, como antes. El primer resultado notable á que esto dió lugar, fué que, á pesar de que disminuyó la cantidad de tejidos extranjeros importados en un valor de tres y medio millones de pesos en el primer año, los derechos recaudados fueron los mismos. También es de notar que el promedio de los derechos sobre todos los géneros de seda extranjeros que se importaron en el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898—esto es, durante once meses desde que empezó á regir el nuevo arancel—es mayor que lo había sido durante quince años, y es siete y un cuarto por ciento más alto que en 1897. Hilos ó hilazas de seda fueron introducidos en cantidad valorada en $1,224,854, y pagaron por término medio derechos que ad valorem corresponden á 37.8 por ciento. Todas las clases de tejidos de seda, incluyendo terciopelo, felpilla, encajes, bordados, punto y efectos de uso personal, que representaron un valor de $21,410,192, pagaron por término medio 55 por ciento ad valorem. Los derechos específicos han contribuido también á que se fabriquen en el país muchos artículos que, cuando se pagaban derechos ad valorem, eran avaluados por mucho menos de su valor real, lo cual hacía imposible que se les fabricara en los Estados Unidos con provecho.

En la tabla siguiente, compilada por la sociedad ya mencionada, se pone de manifiesto la producción de tejidos de seda en los Estados Unidos:

Año.	Géneros.	Cintas.
1873	$2,847,917	$2,652,011
1880 (año del censo)	11,224,895	6,023,100
1881	13,332,194	6,213,804
1883	12,989,310	9,034,650
1890 (año del censo)	25,096,776	17,081,447
1898 (cantidad calculada)	40,000,000	20,000,000

El desarrollo de esta industria en los Estados Unidos durante los últimos años se demuestra con el mayor consumo de seda en rama y con la diminución en la cantidad que se importa de géneros de seda.

En enero de 1899 había fábricas de tejidos de seda en 28 Estados de la Unión, y el número variaba desde 1 hasta 257. El número total de las fábricas era de 861, situadas en 228 poblaciones. De esta cantidad cerca de las seis sétimos partes, ó sea 657 de las 851 fábricas, se hallaban en los Estados de New Jersey (257), Nueva York (228) y Pennylvania (172). Empleaban más de 27,000 telares de fuerza motriz para

hacer géneros de seda y 6,000 para cintas. El número de nuevas fábricas y compañías que tomaron parte en la industria de seda en 1898 ascendió á 49. En el sólo Estado de Pennsylvania se han establecido fábricas para la manufactura de telas de seda durante los últimos dos años en 16 pueblos y aldeas, y para seda torcida y cintas en trece pueblos más. La importación de seda en rama en 1898 fué de 10,315,162 libras, valoradas en $31,446,800, lo cual es un aumento de 3,791,550 libras en cuanto al peso y de $2,959,856 en cuanto al valor sobre la importación de 1897.

LA INDUSTRIA DE CUERO Y CALZADO.

Entre las industrias que han tenido notable desarrollo en los Estados Unidos durante los últimos años, merecen mencionarse las de cuero y calzado. Según los datos que da la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda, la exportación de calzado en los diez meses que terminaron en abril del año corriente, ascendió á $2,049,047. En el mismo período del año anterior fué solamente por valor de $1,439,512, y hace dos años en ese mismo espacio de tiempo la cantidad exportada fué apenas de $1,389,355. Salta á la vista cuán considerable es el aumento que ha habido en la exportación del mencionado artículo en los diez meses que se vencieron en abril próximo pasado. La exportación á la Gran Bretaña, que en el período correspondiente á 1897 fué de $224,690, y en 1898 de $244,536, se elevó en 1899 á $344,817. En el año de 1897 se exportó á Francia por valor de $11,957; en 1898 la cantidad ascendió á $21,479, y en 1899 á $33,350. Alemania tomó calzado americano en 1897 por valor de $11,069; en 1898, por valor de $55,945, y en 1899 la suma fué de $72,293. El aumento de lo que se mandó á los otros países europeos fué igual al que se verificó en el tráfico con Francia; pero con ninguna nación ha aumentado este comercio tanto como con Alemania. Durante los diez meses correspondientes á 1897, la exportación de calzado al Canadá y otras posesiones inglesas en la América del Norte representó un valor de $200,450; en 1898 fué de $234,446, y en 1899 de $338,216. Un aumento parecido se verificó en el tráfico con las Antillas y las Bermudas, pues las cifras fueron de $230,511 en 1897, de $249,042 en 1898, y de $363,244 en 1899. A México se exportó calzado en 1897 por valor de $48,065; en 1898 la exportación ascendió á $61,210, y en 1899 á $153,222.

La exportación en abril de este año muestra también aumento de importancia, comparada con la del mismo mes del año pasado, pues en 1898 fué, en el mencionado mes, de $163,241, y en 1899 de $346,366. La diferencia es como sigue: á la Gran Bretaña se exportó calzado en abril de 1898 por valor de $33,607, y en el mismo mes de 1899, $89,717; á las posesiones inglesas en la América del Norte, $33,074 en 1898, y $47,785 en 1899; á las Antillas y las Bermudas, $23,689 en 1898, y $86,728 en 1899; á México, $5,901 en 1898, y $25,837 en 1899. Á Australia se

mandó en abril de 1898 por valor de $14,488, y en el mismo mes del año en curso la exportación subió á $37,863. La exportación total para aquel país durante los diez meses que terminaron en abril, fué en 1899 de $344,598, mientras que en el mismo período de 1898 no pasó de $184,151.

La exportación de cuero de suela durante los diez meses que terminaron en abril de 1899 fué de 31,621,856 libras con un valor de $5,333,213. Otras clases de cuero fueron exportadas en el mismo período correspondiente á 1898 en cantidades valoradas en $11,102,863.

El gran desarrollo á que ha llenado en los Estados Unidos la industria de calzado se debe á que este artículo se fabrica aquí con más perfección que en otros paises y á los mismos precios. Hoy los Estados Unidos casi no importan calzado de ninguna parte, y en cambio lo exportan á la Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania, el Canadá, la América Central y del Sur, Australia, el África meridional, etc., y la exportación va aumentando de día en día. En la ciudad de Paris la cantidad de calzado americano que se consumió durante el presente año económico fué casi doble á la consumida en el año anterior. En todos los paises donde el calzado de los Estados Unidos ha sido introducido, se reconoce ya el hecho de que es más elegante, duradero y cómodo que el que se fabrica en otras partes del mundo, sin que por esto sea su precio mayor.

TRATADO DE RECIPROCIDAD CON LA BARBADA.

El 16 de junio de 1899 se firmó en el Departamento de Estado en Wáshington un tratado de reciprocidad celebrado entre los Estados Unidos y la Gran Bretaña referente el comercio entre aquel país y la Colonia Británica de la Barbada. Este es el primer tratado negociado de acuerdo con la Sección 4 de la Ley de Tarifa de Dingley, y también el primero de la serie que las Colonias británicas que quedan al sur de los Estados Unidos están tratando de negociar. Dicho tratado con la Barbada es por el término de cinco años, pero como hay que someterlo al Senado para su aprobación, el Departamento de Estado no puede publicar aún los términos en que está concebido.

La Sección 4 de la Ley de Tarifa vigente dispone la reducción de "no más del 20 por ciento (de los derechos) sobre dichos efectos géneros ó mercancías que se designen allí como procedentes del país ó de los paises con que dicho tratado ó tratados se celebren, en virtud de lo prescrito en esta sección; ó siempre que se disponga que durante el mencionado período pasen de la lista de artículos grabados á la de artículos libres los referidos efectos, géneros ó mercancías, que sean productos naturales de dicho país ó paises extranjeros y no de los Estados Unidos."

El producto principal de la Barbada es el azúcar, cuyo comercio en 1898 alcanzó á $2,208,000. Los principales artículos que los Estados Unidos exportan para la isla son productos para la alimentación y casi

todo lo referente al ramo de mercancías manufacturadas lo ha recebido hasta ahora de la Gran Bretaña. En el pasado los cónsules americanos en la Barbada han llamado la atención á la demanda que allí existe por mantequilla, conservas en latas, coches, bicicletas, efectos para la electricidad y cimento.

El Cónsul MACALLISTER dice en las "Commercial Relations of the United States" para 1898, página 108, que las importaciones hechas por Bridgetown en 1897 alcanzaron á $5,043,495, contra $5,244,435 en 1896. Las importaciones hechas de los Estados Unidos durante dicho año arrojaron una diferencia de $175,886 menos. En 1897, las importaciones de comestibles de los Estados Unidos montarón á $1,253,895, contra $483,755 procedentes de la Gran Bretaña. Por otra parte, los productos manufacturados importados de la Gran Bretaña alcanzaron á $658,785, mientras que los Estados Unidos sólo enviaron por valor de $116,600.

Según la misma autoridad citada, las exportaciones en 1897 fueron mayores que las de 1896 en la cantidad de $90,674 lo arrojan un total general de $3,680,000. La cantidad de azúcar exportado en 1897 alcanzó á 67,609 bocoyes. El manioc, especie de yucca, se exportó por valor de $18,800, de los cuales correspondieron $12,967 á los Estados Unidos.

CONDICIÓN DE LAS COSECHAS PRINCIPALES.

Los informes recibidos en el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos indican que el número de acres sembrados de maíz es como 5 por ciento mayor que el de 1898. De los veintiun Estados que tienen bajo cultivo un millón de acres ó más, tres solamente indican que ha habido disminución, aun cuando es muy pequeña. El promedio de la condición es 86.5, comparada con 90.5 el 1° de julio de 1898; correspondiendo á 82.9 á la misma fecha en 1897, y al promedio medio del mes de julio en los últimos diez años, 91.1. La condición de los Estados principales es la que sigue: Ohio y Missouri, 85; Indiana, 90; Illinois, 86; Iowa, 81; Kansas, 92, y Nebraska, 93.

Por lo que se refiere al trigo la condición de las variedades de invierno demuestra mayor disminución, pués que para julio de 1899 era 65.6, comparado con 86.7 y 81.2 en los de 1898 y 1897, respectivamente, y 82.4 el promedio medio de los meses de julio durante los últimos diez años. Por término medio la condición del trigo de primavera es 91.7, comparada con 91.4 en junio 1°, 1899, y 95 en julio 1°, 1898; para el mismo mes en 1897 fué 91.2, y el promedio medio del mes de julio en diez años se computa en 88.7.

El promedio de la condición del centeno de invierno alcanza á 83.3, comparada con 93.8 el 1° de julio de 1898; en el período correspondiente á 1897 fué 95, y el promedio medio del mes de julio por diez años fué 90.5. Por lo que se refiere al centeno de primavera, la condición por término medio es 89.7, contra 96.9 en 1° de julio de 1898; para julio 1°, 1897, fué 90, y el promedio medio por diez años, 90.6.

La condición de la cosecha de avena es, por término medio, 90 contra 88.7 el 1° de junio 1899 y 92.8 el 1° de julio 1898, siendo el promedio medio, por diez años, 87.7. En cuanto á la cebada su condición por término medio es 92 contra 85.7 el 1° de julio 1898 y 88.3 el promedio medio por diez años. Ha aumentado en 1 por ciento el número de acres de cultivo de papas ó patatas y la cosecha promete buenos resultados. Los informes relativos á la lana indican que el promedio del peso del vellón es 5.95 libras ó sea un aumento de .15 de libra sobre 1898. Los informes relativos al algodón indican que el promedio de la condición es 87.8 comparado con 91.2 el 1° de julio de 1898, siendo el promedio medio, por diez años, 88.

Según el "New York Journal of Commerce" las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos, durante las dos semanas que terminaron el 8 de julio, indica un enorme movimiento de las cosechas, alcanzando la de trigo á 2,864,000 bushels; la de maíz, 5,096,000 bushels; centeno, 117,000 bushels y avena, 825,000 bushels. En la historia de las transacciones de trigo no tiene paralelo el aumento que tuvo lugar en el mes de junio. La cantidad que había en los Estados Unidos y el Canadá para el 1° de julio alcanzó cerca de 50,000,000 bushels ó sea más de 4,000,000 de bushels en exceso durante el mes de junio, contra una disminución en junio de 1898 de más de 11,000,000 bushels. Las existencias europeas tuvieron una baja de cerca de 2,500,000 bushels durante el mes. El total de las existencias de los Estados Unidos, Canadá, Europa, Australia y los puertos principales de la República Argentina alcanzaba á 133,501,000 bushels ó sea 1,000,000 de bushels de aumento desde el 1° de junio contra una disminución en las existencias del mundo para junio de 1898 de más de 90,000,000 bushels.

Las existencias americanas son hoy más del doble de lo que eran hace un año, mientras que las de Europa son 10,000,000 bushels más grande y las existencias del mundo 48,000,000 bushels en exceso de lo que había el 1° de julio de 1898. Las exportaciones de trigo hechas de todos los países para Europa desde el 1° de agosto, 1898, á junio 24 de 1899, fueron 342,840,000 bushels, ó sea 54,600,000 bushels ménos que el año anterior.

PRODUCCIÓN DE PETRÓLEO EN EL MUNDO.

Según los datos estadísticos últimamente publicados por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, la producción anual de petróleo en todo el mundo asciende á más de 5,000,000,000 de galones, y de esta cantidad los Estados Unidos producen 2,500,000,000, Rusia 3,250,000,000, y el resto sale de varios otros paises, que son Austria, Sumatra, Java, Canadá, Rumania, India, Japón, Alemania, el Perú é Italia. Aunque la producción de petróleo crudo es casi igual en los Estados Unidos y en Rusia, la cantidad de aceite refinado para alumbrar que produce el primero de estos dos paises es casi doble de la que produce el segundo. Esto se debe á que

una cantidad dada de petróleo americano da tres cuartas partes de su volumen de aceite refinado, mientras que el petróleo ruso produce solamente cosa de las tres octavas partes. Después de Rusia, es Sumatra el país que hace mayor competencia á los Estados Unidos en dicho artículo, porque su petróleo crudo rinde la mitad de su volumen de aceite refinado, y porque, además, se encuentra más cerca de las naciones orientales que figuran entre los principales mercados para este producto. Hasta la fecha, sin embargo, la cantidad de petróleo producida en Sumatra es pequeña, si se la compara con la que sale de los Estados Unidos ó de Rusia, pues en 1897 aquella isla solamente produjo 72,258,000 galones. La Gran Bretaña consume más petróleo americano que ninguna otra nación del globo. Durante el último año económico se exportaron para aquel país 212,265,563 galones. La cantidad de aceite refinado para alumbrar exportada de los Estados Unidos en 1898 fué de 900,998,875 galones, mientras que Rusia solamente exportó como la tercera parte.

El periódico "Le Nouveau Monde," que se publica en Paris, anuncia, en su número correspondiente al 17 de junio de este año, que se han descubierto en México, cerca de Puebla, grandes depósitos de petróleo, y que se está organizando actualmente una compañía mexicana para explotarlos.

INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN 1899.

Contra lo que esperaban los empleados del Ministerio de Hacienda, los gastos del Gobierno durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899 excedieron á las entradas solamente en una cantidad de cerca de $88,875,989.26. Dichos empleados predijeron el 1° de junio que el déficit quizá no pasaría de $100,000,000, pero jamás se pensó que fuera menos de $95,000,000.

El que dicho déficit haya sido menor de lo que se esperaba, se atribuye á la extraordinaria cantidad que han producido las aduanas y la renta interna, así como á la reducción en los gastos durante el mes de junio. Los ingresos en el mes de junio fueron como sigue: Aduanas, $18,466,907; renta interna, $25,606,859; entradas diversas, $3,073,147—total, $47,126,915. Los gastos durante el mes ascendieron á $31,382,762. Los ingresos durante el año fueron como sigue: Aduanas, $206,507,812.15; renta interna, $273,142,490.30; entradas diversas, $36,566,442.97—total, $516,216,474.42. Los gastos durante el año fueron los siguientes: Servicio civil y gastos misceláneos, $119,225,598.68; guerra, $229,041,001.99; marina, $64,734,479.78; indios, $12,799,983.70; pensiones, $139,394,945,51; intereses, $39,896,925.02—total, $605,092,734.68. Las entradas excedieron á las del año económico de 1898 en $111,705,664. De este aumento se debió á las aduanas la suma de $56,688,218, y á la renta interna $103,199,451. Las entradas diversas disminuyeron en $48,182,005. El balance en caja en la Tesorería, al terminar del año económico, era de $281,380,468.

PRODUCCIÓN DE ORO.

Á principios de este año el Director de la Moneda publicó algunos datos preliminares relativamente á la producción de oro en 1898. Según los cálculos hechos, entonces la producción total de los Estados Unidos, incluido Alaska, fué de $65,782,677, lo cual muestra un aumento de $8,400,000 sobre el año precedente. El funcionario en referencia acaba de dar á luz sus cálculos finales, los cuales confirman en muchos respectos los anteriormente publicados, aunque difieren en cuanto á la producción total, que fué cosa de $1,400,000 menos de lo que se calculó al principio.

Las principales secciones del país productoras de oro en el año referido, fueron, en el órden de su importancia, las siguientes: Colorado, California, Dakota del Sur, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, el Estado de Wáshington, Nuevo México, Georgia y la Carolina del Sur.

En cuanto á la producción de plata, también se ha notado aumento, aunque ligero. Los principales Estados productores de este metal fueron Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho, y California. Otras secciones del país produjeron también plata, pero en cantidades menores. La producción de este metal en 1898 ascendió á 54,438,000 onzas.

Se cree que la cantidad de oro que los Estados Unidos producirán en 1899 será, más ó menos, igual á la del año pasado. Se calcula que de la sola región de Klondike, en Alaska, se sacará en este año del metal amarillo por valor de $20,000,000.

TRATADO DE RECIPROCIDAD CON JAMAICA.

Un tratado de reciprocidad entre la Gran Bretaña, en representación de Jamaica y los Estados Unidos, fué concluido en el Departamento de Estado en Wáshington el 1° de julio de este año. Los detalles relativos á este asunto fueron arreglados entre el Hon. JOHN A. KASSON, nombrado Comisionado Especial y Plenipotenciario de conformidad con lo que dispone el Arancel de Aduanas de los Estados Unidos, y Mr. REGINALD TOWER, Encargado de Negocios de la Gran Bretaña. El tratado ha sido enviado á Kingston, á fin de que lo apruebe la autoridad colonial, y cuando esto haya sido hecho el instrumento será firmado en debida forma. Los detalles de este tratado no se publicarán sino hasta que haya sido ratificado por el Congreso.

DERECHOS SOBRE LOS CUEROS.

Según el periódico "The Butchers' Advocate," correspondiente al 21 de junio, el Aforador del puerto de Nueva York ha hecho los siguientes cambios en el aforo de los cueros importados, para el pago de los derechos de aduana.

Cueros en salmuera de Progreso, 14 centavos por libra. Cueros en salmuera de la ciudad de México, 35 centavos por kilo. Cueros secos de Paita, Perú, de 23 á 24

centavos por libra; secos salados, de 20 á 21 centavos. Cueros de Limón, Costa Rica, secos salados, 55 centavos por kilo. Cueros de Savanilla y Cartagena, $8.50 á $9 (papel) por cada cuero, en lugar de $7.

RECONOCIMIENTO DE CÓNSULES EXTRANJEROS.

El Departamento de Estado dió aviso, con fecha 7 de julio de este año, de que el Presidente McKINLEY había reconocido oficialmente á los siguientes empleados consulares de América Central y del Sur: MÓNICO CÓRDOVA SERRA, como Cónsul-General de Honduras, y E. HERNANDEZ, como Vice-Cónsul del mismo país en Nueva Orleans, La.; FIDEL GARCÍA, como Cónsul-General del Ecuador en la ciudad de Nueva York; EUGENE ALEXANDER BRESLER, como Cónsul honorario de Venezuela en Detroit, Mich., y H. RENJES, como Cónsul de Chile en Honolulu, Islas de Hawaii.

FUNDICIÓN DE ACERO AL VACÍO.

El "Scientific American," en su edición de 24 de junio, dice que se ha formado una compañía con un capital de $150,000 para determinar si el acero puede ó no fundirse en el vacío por medio de la liquefacción del hidrógeno. Si el plan tiene éxito, se espera que las burbujas de aire que producen desperfectos y debilitan las fundiciones desaparezcan, consiguiendo así homogeneidad en las piezas fundidas. Parece que comienza á dar frutos el éxito obtenido por el Profesor DEWAR.

PATENTES CONCEDIDAS Á HISPANO-AMERICANOS.

La Oficina de Patentes de los Estados Unidos expidió el 4 de julio de 1899, dos patentes á favor de ciudadanos de países hispano-americanos, á saber: una á favor de JOHN W. FLETCHER, de Tocapilla, Chile, por un instrumento de cortar tubos, y la otra á favor de HENRY MILLAR, de Buenos Aires, República Argentina, por un calentador de agua de alimentación.

URUGUAY.

LÍNEAS DE TELÉFONO.

Dice el periódico "The British Trade Journal," en su número del 1º de junio, página 257, que la Legación francesa en Montevideo ha informado á su Gobierno de que el del Uruguay tiene bajo consideración varios proyectos para el establecimiento de líneas de teléfono á expensas del Estado. Todas las comunicaciones sobre este particular deben dirigirse á la Dirección de Correos y de Telegrafía en Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

CONTRATO PARA UN FERROCARRIL.

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Maracaibo, ha escrito al Departamento de Estado con fecha 29 de abril de 1899, remitiendo copia en español, al mismo tiempo que la traducción inglesa, del contrato celebrado entre el Gobierno de Venezuela y LUIS MUÑOZ FEBAR para la construcción de un ferrocarril que unirá á Puerto Cabello con Yaritagua. San Felipe será el término de ambas secciones. Los trabajos de construcción comenzarán dentro de diez meses á contar de la fecha en que el contrato fué firmado (12 de abril de 1899), debiendo concluirse la primera sección dentro de dos años, y la segunda dentro de cuatro. El Gobierno permite la introducción, libre de derechos, de todos los materiales, maquinaria, herramientas y otros artículos necesarios para la construcción, mantenimiento y manejo del ferrocarril, con excepción de aquellos artículos que se producen en el país. Después de 99 años el ferrocarril, con todas sus dependencias, pasará á ser propiedad del Gobierno.

NOTAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS.

La excelencia que el público ha estado acostumbrado á encontrar en los manuales de Baedeker se conserva en el presente volumen, debido á la pluma de Mr. J. F. MUIRHEAD, que de entonces acá ha escrito otro sumamente interesante bajo el título de "The Land of Contrasts" (La Tierra de los Contrastes), que para los americanos, por lo menos, es una buena descripción de la vida y costumbres en los Estados Unidos.

Este manual, como todos los de la serie, empieza con varios capítulos referentes á diversos asuntos de interés relativos á los Estados Unidos, todos escritos por autoridades reconocidas en la materia. Sólo podemos mencionar el que aparece bajo el título de "A Short History of American Politics" (Breve Historia de la Política en los Estados Unidos), por el Professor JOHN BACH MCMASTER; "Constitution and Government of the United States" (Constitución y Gobierno de los Estados Unidos), por el Honorable JAMES BRYCE, autor de "The American Commonwealth" (El Estado Americano), y otro por el Professor N. S. SHALER, de la Universidad de Harvard, sobre la "Physiography of North America" (Fisiografía de Norte América).

El libro en referencia no sólo trata de los Estados Unidos, incluyendo desde luego Alaska, sino que también trae una excursión á la Ciudad de México y á Veracruz. Los 19 mapas y 24 planos de las varias ciudades de los Estados Unidos que acompañan dicho volumen han sido preparados con el cuidado que siempre se nota en los manuales de Baedeker, y en este caso especial, bajo la dirección de Mr. HENRY GANNETT del Cuerpo de Ingenieros de la Oficina Geológica de los Estados Unidos.

Mr. ROBERT P. PORTER, que hace poco desempeñó el cargo de Comisionado Especial de los Estados Unidos en Cuba y Puerto Rico, ha hecho un estudio minucioso se la situación comercial é industrial de Cuba en la actualidad con relación á las ventajas que ofrece al capital, al espíritu de empresa y al trabajo americanos. El resultado de sus investigaciones para las que acudió á las fuentes más fidedignas, puesto que dispuso de facilidades especiales á ese fin, ha sido publicado por G. P. Putnam's Sons, de Nueva York, en un tomo de 428 páginas, con este título: "Industrial Cuba."

La Academia Americana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, de Filadelfia, ha publicada los discursos pronunciados por los Señores THEODORO S. WOOLSEY, E. W. HUFFCUTT, A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, W. ALLEYNE IRELAND, CARL SCHURZ, W. C. FORD, ROBERT T. HILL, JOHN BASSETT MOORE, S. E. WU TING FANG y otros, en la sesión anual de la Academia, que se verificó en los días 7 y 8 de abril de este año. Asimismo ha publicado un informe sobre las discusiones á que cada discurso dió lugar. Todo esto forma un tomo de 216 páginas, y en el se exponen de una manera interesante argumentos en pro y en contra de la política de expansión nacional.

En el número correspondiente al mes de julio de este año, del periódico "Anglo-American Magazine," que se publica en Nueva York y en Londres, hay un artículo del Profesor WILLET M. HAYS con este título: "El Trigo en el Noroeste." Dice su autor lo siguiente: "El trigo no ha recibido la atención que merece. Se ha puesto más cuidado en el cultivo de la violeta tricolor ó pensamiento y de las orquídeas que en el del trigo, y se han operado en aquellas plantas cambios más completos, según los deseos del hombre." Sin embargo, el que lea este excelente artículo verá por la descripción de los trabajos que se hacen en las granjas de experimentos agrícolas en al noroeste, que ya se ha alcanzado mucho, no sólo en cuanto á mejorar el cultivo del trigo y á hacer más fácil la recolección de la cosecha, sino también en cuanto á mejorar las diversas clases de dicho grano. Mr. HAYS describe las diferentes clases de trigo y su desarrollo, la maquinaria que se emplea en la cosecha y en la preparación del grano para el mercado, los diversos métodos seguidos para mezclar el polen de las diferentes variedades á fin de mejorarlas, y el modo de probar el trigo en las heredades, en las granjas de experimentos agrícolas, en los elevadores y en los molinos.

En periódico llamado "PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen" (No. 45, 1899, Vol. V) anuncia que los Andes bolivianos fueron medidos por Sir MARTIN CONWAY durante sus viajes en Bolivia en los años de 1898 y 1899. Las medidas se hicieron por medio de la triangulación, valiéndose del teodolito de seis pulgadas.

A continuación se dan los resultados de las medidas:

	Piés ingleses.	Metros.
Monte Sorato:		
Illampu	21,523	6,560
Ancohuma	21,710	6,617
Ancohuma (pico más bajo)	20,738	6,320
Pico del sur	19,700	6,005
Chachacomani	20,820	6,350
Pico del sur	20,090	6,120
Condoriri	19,940	6,080
Cacaaca	20,560	6,270
Mururata	18,980	5,785
Illimani	21,015	6,405

Como estas medidas coinciden prácticamente con las que antes fueron hechas por MINCHINS, el resultado es muy satisfactorio.

"La Constitución Política de la República de Chile, promulgada el 25 de mayo de 1833, con reformas hasta el 1° de mayo de 1899," tal es el título de un tanto largo de un folleto de 36 páginas publicado en la tipografía del "Herald," de Urbana, Ill., por el Professor C. W. TOOKE. Refiriéndose á este trabajo, el traductor dice lo siguiente: "Fué hecho primitivamente para la clase de estudios comparativos de derecho constitucional" (probablemente para un colegio de Urbana). "Sirva de excusa para ofrecer al público este folleto, el hecho de que hasta la fecha no se había publicado en inglés una traducción de dicho documento con sus reformas." Al hablar de la Constitución misma, el escritor se expresa así:

Quizá es justo afirmar que la Constitución de Chile es más adelantada que cualquiera de las otras de la América española, en el sentido de que en su forma se acomoda más al sistema de gobierno existente. La Constitución reconoce francamente el principio de centralización, y todas las cuestiones que versan sobre la relación entre el Poder Ejecutivo y el Legislativo han sido resueltas por las reformas adoptadas después de la guerra civil de 1891. Limitarse á copiar las disposiciones constitucionales de un país no basta para fundar instituciones semejantes, y el hombre de estado debe adaptar la forma de gobierno de una nación á las condiciones existentes. Los estadistas chilenos tienen el mérito de haber establecido un sistema político conforme á las condiciones del país, y el crédito que merecen no es menor por el hecho de que el progreso ha sido paulatino y de que algunas de las reformas fueron adoptadas solamente después de de una lucha intestina.

El Museo Colombino Field de Chicago ha publicado un importante folleto de 56 páginas (publicación 33—Series Geológicas, Vol. 1, No. 3), con este título: "Los Minerales de Colombia sacados de Minas en Explotación en 1892." La obra fué preparada por Mr. HENRY WINDSOR NICHOLS, B. C., Subconservador del Museo. Es ésta una descripción

de la colección de quijos, rocas y minerales hecha por F. PEREIRA GAMBA, ingeniero de minas de Bogotá, y la cual fué exhibida en la Exposición Universal Colombina. La colección, que en su mayor parte fué donada al Museo Field, es digna de atención por la luz que arroja sobre la naturaleza casi desconocida y la formación de los minerales de uno de los primeros países productores de oro, así como por aproximarse más de lo usual en estos casos á lo que debe ser una collección geológica. Las muestras que quedaron en el Museo Field han sido examinadas por Mr. NICHOLS, y el resultado de sus investigaciones se encuentra en el folleto ya mencionado. Además de un catálogo comprensivo, hay una descripción de las condiciones físicas y de la geología general de Colombia, así como de los diversos distritos mineros. Contiene también dicha publicación una lista de las obras más útiles y recientes sobre la geología y las riquezas minerales de Colombia, así como los nombres de algunas de las obras antiguas más valiosas. Acompaña al folleto un mapa de las regiones mineras de Antioquía y Tolima, para preparar el cual se hizo uso de los mejores atlas, del mapa publicado por la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas y de muchos otros.

El número suplementario, 127, del "Mitteilungen" del Dr. A. PETERMANN (Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt, Gotha, 1899), contiene un tratado acerca de la formación de las montañas y del suelo de la parte norte de la América Central, debido á la pluma del Dr. CARL SAPPER y al resultado de sus investigaciones durante los años corridos entre 1888–1897. Este trabajo es la continuación de otros debidos al mismo autor y que son: Geografía Física de Guatemala (PETERMANNS Mitteilungen, Suplemento, No. 113, 1893); Geografía Física de Chiapas, Tabasco y Yucatán (Boletín No. 3 del Instituto Geológico de México, 1859), y también un informe acerca del Gobierno de Belize (1896) que no se ha publicado aún. En la presente obra están comprendidas las anteriores formando un todo completo, al cual se añaden los resultados obtenidos en un viaje por el Salvador y la parte occidental de Honduras desde el límite occidental de los Estados Mexicanos de Chiapas y Tabasco hasta los linderos de la América Central, entre Puerto Cortez y la Bahia de Fonseca. Dice el autor que ha circunscrito sus trabajos principalmente á la geología, orografía, hidrografía y suelo de los diferentes lugares, habiendo hasta ahora preparado la cartografía del area de formación vegetal y de las regiones pluviales más importantes de la parte norte de Centro América. ("Das nördliche Mittelamerika" Brunswick, 1897), y también (PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen, 1898, vol. 6). Esta contribución hecha por el Dr. SAPPER á la literatura científica en su última obra, es de la mayor importancia desde luego que hace una revista cuidadosa de las condiciones actuales y del actual estado de conocimientos á los cuales se añade el resultado de sus recientes investigaciones. Aun cuando la obra del Dr. SAPPER ha sido escrita para los hombres de ciencia, quienes indudablemente

formarán el mayor núcleo de sus lectores, hay mucho de interés para los lectores en general que deseen obtener informes acerca de los países en cuestión.

Los siguientes mapas están incluidos en el volumen:

I. Mapa Original de la Parte Norte de Centro América; escala, 1:1100000.

II. Mapa Geológico de la Parte Norte Centro América; escala, 1:1100000.

III. Esbozo de un Mapa Superficial de la Parte Norte de Centro América, escala, 1:3000000.

IV. Perfil Geológico de Yucatán, Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala, etc.; escala de longitudes, 1:250000; escala de altitudes, 1:100000. No. I, perfil de Yucatán (1:800000 and 1:40000). No. 2–9, perfil de Chiapas y Tabasco. No. 9ª, perfil de Belize. No. 10–23, perfil de Guatemala. No. 24 y 25, perfil de Honduras.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. JULHO DE 1899. No. 1.

NOMEAÇÃO DO SR. W. W. ROCKHILL COMO DIRECTOR PERMANENTE.

Como o General RUSSELL HASTINGS, de Massachusetts, que foi nomeado Director permanente da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas a 20 de Março de 1899, pediu demissão antes de haver-se encarregado da administração da Secretaria, segundo se noticiou no BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Abril, o Honrado W. W. ROCKHILL, ex-ministro dos Estados Unidos na Grecia, foi nomeado pelo Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos para lhe succeder, de conformidade com as faculdades que lhe foram conferidas pela Commissão Executiva da União Internacional das Repúblicas Americanas a 7 de Abril de 1899.

O Senhor ROCKHILL entrou no exercicio do seu cargo no dia 2 de Maio de 1899.

O FUTURO DO CAFÉ.

As noticias ultimamente recebidas sobre os damnos occasionados pelas geadas á colheita de Santos, têm demonstrado quão sensivel é o mercado de café e como enfraquece ao impulso de qualquer acontecimento que tenda a alterar as relções entre a offerta e a demanda. É sabido que por mais de dous annos o preço deste importante artigo de commercio tem baixado notavelmente e é de suppor que qualquer cousa que possa reduzir a colheita do anno proximo, dará em resultado uma completa mudança no aspecto do mercado e uma alta consideravel nos preços.

Ainda não se tem esquecido a extraordinaria elevação nos preços que se verificou entre o mez de junho de 1886 e o de 1887. No primeiro destes dous annos o preço de 8 centavos por libra, pouco mais ou menos, quasi se manteve fixo, emquanto que no segundo a fluctuação foi enorme, de tal sorte que de Junho de 1896 a Junho de 1897 houve uma differença de treze centavos e quarto por libra. A causa principal disto foi a má colheita do Brazil em 1887, pois em vez de ser de 6,000,000 saccos, como se esperava, foi sómente de 2,000,000. O que naquella epocha occorreu pode occorrer outra vez, si sobrevem algum desastre ás colheitas que se aguardam.

Tudo parece indicar que o café do Rio conhecido com o nome de No. 7, tem chegado ao preço mais baixo a que será vendido por algum tempo. Para mostrar a fluctuação que tem soffrido o café no mercado de Nova York, dá-se em seguida uma lista dos preços do café do Rio No. 7, desde 1884 até o anno corrente, inclusive:

Junho.	Centavos.	Junho.	Centavos.
1884	8	1892	11¾
1885	6¾	1893	15⅜
1886	7¼	1894	15⅜
1687	20⅜	1895	14½
1888	11⅜	1896	12½
1889	13¼	1897	6¾
1890	16⅜	1898	6¼
1891	16¼	1899	6

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

O COMMERCIO EM PRODUCTOS AGRICOLAS DURANTE O PRIMEIRO TRIMESTRE DE 1899.

O Senhor ERNESTO DANVERS, correspondente especial do "Weekly Northwestern Miller," tem escripto de Buenos Ayres, com data de 5 de Maio de 1899, um interessante artigo, publicado na pagina 1147 do dito periodico, do qual se tem feito o seguinte extracto:

O Congresso reuniu-se no dia 1° de Maio e o resultado do discurso do Presidente (do qual publicou um summario o BOLETIM MENSAL de Junho, pagina 2145) foi fazer subir como dez pontos o premio do ouro; mas na data da carta do Senhor DANVERS, o mercado tinha recobrado sua calma ordinaria e voltou a baixar o premio. Diz o auctor que o Banco Nacional vai a accumular uma grande reserva de ouro e que o Congresso decretará uma taxa fixa para o cambio de papel moeda por ouro, taxa que se crê estará entre 230 e 250.

Segundo as estatisticas commerciaes correspondentes ao primeiro trimestre do anno corrente, as importações alcançam a $29,821,072 em ouro, ou seja um augmento de $3,740,876 comparado com o periodo correspondente de 1898. As exportações durante o mesmo tempo alcançaram a $47,532,893, indicando um augmento de $3,562,088. O com-

mercio do Brazil com os Estados Unidos mostra um augmento de $1,616,759 em ouro, no ramo de importações e uma diminuição de $158,211, nas exportações. As importações de machinas agricolas foram como segue: arados, 14,399; debulhadores de milho, 466; fouces, 14 toneladas; ancinhos á força animal, 918; ceifeiras e engaveladores, 53; outras machinas de ceifar, 1,117; debulhadores, 4; alcançando o seu valor total a $356,112, em ouro, o que mostra um augmento de $286,000 comparado com o mesmo periodo de 1898.

Os productos agricolas exportados foram: Trigo, 364,372 toneladas, avaliadas em $9,182,167, ouro, ou seja um augmento de 16,107 toneladas, ainda quando o valor diminuiu em $1,962,312; linho, 90,905 toneladas, avaliadas em $3,090,727, ou uma diminuição de 4,866 toneladas e de $69,664; farinha de trigo, 8,439 toneladas, avaliadas em $354,457, ou um augmento de 1,786 toneladas e de $61,935; farelo, 12,303 toneladas, por valor de $151,321, ou um augmento de 5,244 toneladas e de $75,790.

Para o 1º de Maio de 1898 se cotava o trigo no mercado do Rio a $12.50 por 100 kilogrammas, contra $5.20 na mesma data de 1899. Para as mesmas datas o linho foi avaliado em $10 e $7.20 respectivamente por 100 kilogrammas. O premio do ouro para o 1º de Maio de 1899 era 132, contra 164 em Maio 1º de 1898.

Do numero da "Review of the River Plate" correspondente a 13 de Maio foram extrahidas as seguintes estatisticas sobre as importações da Republica Argentina durante o primeiro trimestre de 1899.

Paizes.	Importações.	Exportações.
Reino Unido	$11,383,548	$4,674,386
Italia	3,698,244	1,223,826
Allemanha	3,685,693	9,387,003
Estados Unidos	3,513,086	1,553,968
França	2,827,638	11,910,470
Belgica	2,507,327	6,536,455
Brazil	1,040,970	1,713,048
Hespanha	645,742	354,823
Paraguay	292,607	52,997
Uruguay	129,607	734,643
Hollanda	27,356	120,139
Portugal	23,733	9,407
Chile	19,082	123,011
Bolivia	7,566	112,881
As Antilhas	4,275	52,438
Outros paizes	14,598	2,107,770
Ordens		6,865,628
Total	29,821,072	47,532,893

BRAZIL.

COMMERCIO EM COURO.

O "Moniteur Officiel," de Paris, em seu numero de 11 de Maio, contem um artigo interessante preparado pelo Sr. GEORGE RITT, consul francez em Rio de Janeiro, sobre o commercio em couro e artigos de couro no Brazil.

Deste artígo parece que, ainda que a França outr'ora gozava de quasi um monopolio deste commercio, fazendo-lhe concurrencia só a Grã Bretanha e a Austria, agora a concurrencia allemã e americana tem feito diminuir consideravelmente as importações da França. Durante o primeiro semestre de 1898 foram embarcados do porto de Hamburgo com destino ao Brazil 141,000 kilogrammas de couro e objectos de couro e 40,000 kilogrammas de calçado, no valor de cerca de $386,000. No mesmo periodo foram embarcados de Nova York 391 caixas de objectos de couro e 714 fardos de pelles preparadas, contra 378 caixas e 258 fardos dos mesmos artigos no anno de 1897.

Houve alguma diminuição nos carregamentos procedentes da Inglaterra. Durante os primeiros seis mezes de 1898 os embarques de couro e seus objectos effectuados da Grã Bretanha foram no valor de $184,680, dos quaes $97,209 correspondem ao valor dos embarques de calçado. No anno de 1897 se embarcaram artigos de couro e calçado por valor de $408,744.

Diz o Sr. RITT que a importação de couros e pelles preparados é muito importante e que agora se fabricam no paiz de couro americano artigos que antigamente se importavam manufacturados. Em 1894, só no porto do Rio de Janeiro se importaram 529,208 kilogrammas de couros e pelles preparados no valor de $868,500. Deste total 351,564 kilogrammas correspondem á França, 94,956 kilogrammas á Inglaterra, 75,132 kilogrammas á Allemanha e Austria e 8,288 kilogrammas aos Estados Unidos. Na actualidade a Republica do Brazil importa annualmente mais de 1,300,000 kilogrammas de couros e pelles preparados, dos quaes 800,000 kilogrammas importam-se pelo porto de Rio. Os carregamentos da França, que anteriormente representavam de 60 a 65 por cento do total, hoje formam pouco mais de 40 ou 50 por cento.

Parece que a importação de bezerro encerado e envernizado, que é uma especialidade franceza, soffreu maior diminuição que qualquer outra classe de couro, devido á concurrencia que lhe fizeram um producto semelhante de Hamburgo e a vaqueta de Nova York, que são mais baratos.

Segundo o artigo citado, os impostos sobre couros e pelles preparados são os seguintes:

Pelles de castor, de phoca e de arminho pagam 7,600 rs. por kilogramma; outras pelles não especificadas, 2,500 rs. por kilogramma.

Couros curtidos—vaqueta, 1,800 rs. por kilogramma; marroquim, 2,200 rs.; couro não especificado, de côr natural, 1,400 rs. por kilogramma; couro colorido não especificado, 2,200 rs. Couros encerados e envernizados—bezerro granulado da Russia, 6,000 rs.; bezerro lizo e granulado da Russia e todos os outros bezerros lizos ou granulados, 3,000 rs. por kilogramma.

As malas, saccos, etc., de couro, vem em quasi sua totalidade da França. Os fabricantes nacionaes fazem mais ou menos imperfeitamente bahús e malas de mão, os quaes são cubertos de pelles crúas com o pello. Ha em Rio e em Santos grande numero de fabricas de calçado, as quaes são movidas por vapor e têm obtido exito.

A fabricação de calçado é uma das industrias nacionaes e consequentemente a importação de calçado fino torna-se cada vez mais reduzida. A venda do calçado manufacturado no paiz é favorecida pelos regulamentos aduaneiros que gravam as importações estrangeiras com pesados impostos, os quaes representam algumas vezes mais de 60 por cento do valor do artigo. Estes impostos são os seguintes. Botas pagam 15,000 rs. a 20,000 rs. por par, segundo tamanho e qualidade; sapatos, 3,000 rs. a 7,000 rs. por par; sapatos baixos ou chinellas, 1,700 rs. a 3,200 rs; sandalias e chinellas para a cama, 700 rs. a 1,400 rs.

Segundo as estatisticas para 1894, que são as mais recentes que se podem obter, se importaram no Rio de Janeiro 996,926 pares de sapatos estrangeiros, avaliados em $868,500.

Fabricam-se arreios e sellins nos Estados de Rio Grande do Sul e Minas Geraes. Estes teem guarnições de prata, são muito estimados no paiz e algumas vezes teem muito valor. Importam-se em sua maior parte os arreios para cavallos de tiro e os que se usam nas carruagens particulares e publicas.

CHILE.

RESUMO DA SITUAÇÃO ECONOMICA.

As noticias ultimamente recebidas do Chile dizem que a situação economica tem melhorado consideravelmente naquella Republica. Ao principio do anno corrente a taxa de cambio foi de 12¼d. e o preço de ouro, 144. No fim de Maio a taxa fluctuóu entre 15d. e 16d., e o preço de ouro entre 115 e 120. Em Janeiro saques sobre Londres pagaveis em ouro foram negociados a 12½d. e 17⅜d. por peso, emquanto que na data mencionada o peso foi cotado a 18¼d. ou ao par mais ¼d.; isto quer dizer que o ouro não deve ser exportado do Chile, mas ao contrario, deve ser importado.

"El Mercurio" de Valparaiso, em data de 22 de Maio de 1899, trata das causas que teem produzido esta melhora, e entre outras menciona como a causa principal a alta no preço do cobre, dizendo que se tem

verificado que si o preço do cobre fosse mantido a cerca de £70 por tonelada durante o anno de 1899, ainda si a producção não augmentasse durante este periodo, só a alta no preço daría ao Chile de 600,000 a 700,000 libras esterlinas mais que no anno de 1898. Só esse facto é sufficiente para dar uma melhora consideravel na situação economica. Outro factor importante que tem contribuido para este melhor estado de cousas é que as importações para 1897 excederam ás exportações por 1,589,698 pesos, emquanto que em 1898 as exportações excederam ás importações por 65,807,373 pesos.

O periodico citado dá outras razões de caracter nacional e diz que sente muita satisfacção por ter melhorado a situação economica simplesmente pelo curso ordinario dos acontecimentos.

PERU.

DECRETO SUPPLEMENTARIO Á LEI DE CASAMENTOS CIVIS.

A Secretaria de Estado dos Estados Unidos tem recebido uma communicação do Honrado IRVING B. DUDLEY, nosso Ministro no Peru, com data de 24 de Maio, na qual remette uma traducção de um Decreto Supremo supplementario á Lei de Casamentos Civis de 23 de Dezembro 1899 que foi promulgado em 9 de Maio de 1899.

O objecto deste Decreto é prescrever a maneira legal de comprovar a não catholicidade dos que desejarem contrahir casamento fóra da Igreja Catholica, em conformidade com as disposições da Lei de Casamentos Civis. Esta lei reconhece a validade dos casamentos civis contrahidos entre os acatholicos e entre os de differentes cultos no caso de que a auctoridade ecclesiastica recuse a fazer a ceremonia. Faz-se referencia a este lei no BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Abril 1899 (pagina 1786), em um artigo intitulado "Condição Legal dos Estrangeiros no Peru."

Eis a traducção do Decreto:

CASAMENTO ENTRE OS ACATHOLICOS.

O PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA,

Considerando que não permittindo as leis existentes até 1897 outro casamento que o de catholicos, a de 23 de Dezembro do dito anno teve por objecto unico provér ao dos acatholicos,

Que a dita lei nada tem estatuido sobre a maneira de comprovar a não catholicidade dos contrahentes, condição essencial e primeiro para sua applicação.

Que isto tem dado lugar, na execução da lei, á debates e entorpecimentos que é urgente supprimir, prescrevendo maneira legal e expedita de fazer aquella previa comprovação.

Que não se tem prescripto procedimento que facilite o cumprimento da lei, no caso de denegação pela auctoridade ecclesiastica de permissão para o casamento, por causa de disparidade de cultos.

Em exercicio da attribuição que me confere o paragrapho 5º do artigo 94 da Constituição, decreto:

ART. 1º. As pessoas que, por ser acatholicos, recorram, para contrahir casamento, á auctoridade judicial, em conformidade com a citada lei, acompanharão á sua petição documentos que provem a religião a que pertencem.

ART. 2º. As pessoas que não pertençam a nenhuma religião, ou não possam, sem grave impedimento, produzir aquella prova instrumental, lhe substituirão declaração jurada, escripta e acompanhada da de, pelo menos, duas pessoas de alta consideração, residentes no lugar, que attestem o facto de não haverem sido os peticionarios baptizados na Igreja catholica.

ART. 3º. O juiz receberá, por sim mesmo, a ratificação verbal jurada da affirmação dos peticionarios e a declaração das testemunhas, estendendo a diligencia correspondente.

ART. 4º. Si no lugar em que se apresenta a petição para o casamento, não tiverem os interessados testemunhas que apresentar, mas assegurarem havel-as, em outro ponto, dentro ou fóra da Republica, se expedirão as cartas de requisição, para que se recebam as declarações.

ART. 5º. Os que solicitassem contrahir casamento civil, por haver-lhes denegado a auctoridade ecclesiastica a dispensa do impedimento de disparidade de cultos, acompanharão certidão authentica d'essa negação.

Si os interessados expuzerem que não lhes tem sido possivel obter essa certidão, o juiz a pedirá directamente á auctoridade ecclesiastica competente, e, com sua resposta, expedirá a resolução que corresponder.

Dado na casa de Governo, em Lima, a 9 de Março de 1899.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

A INDUSTRIA DE COURO E CALÇADO.

Entre as industrias que tem tido notavel desenvolvimento nos Estados Unidos durante os ultimos annos, devem ser mencionadas as de couro e calçado. Segundo os dados estatisticos da Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Fazenda, a exportação de calçado nos dez mezes que terminaram em Abril do anno corrente, ascendeu a $2,049,047. No mesmo periodo do anno anterior foi sómente por valor de $1,439,512, e ha dous annos nesse mesmo espaço de tempo a quantidade exportada foi apenas de $1,389,355. Salta á vista quão consideravel é o augmento que tem havido na exportação do mencionado artigo nos dez mezes que terminaram em Abril proximo passado. A exportação para a Grã Bretanha, que no periodo correspondente a 1897 foi de $224,690, e em 1898 de $244,536, elevou-se em 1899 a $344,817. No anno de 1897 a exportação para a França foi por valor de $11,957; em 1899 ascendeu a $21,479, e em 1899 a $33,350.—Allemanha tomou calçado americano em 1897 por valor de $11,069; em 1898, por valor de $55,945, e em 1899 a somma foi de $72,293.

O augmento do que se mandou para os outros paizes europeos foi igual ao que se verificou no commercio com a França; mas com nenhuma nação tem augmentado este commercio tanto como com a Allemanha. Durante os dez mezes correspondentes a 1897, a exportação

de calçado para o Canadá e outras possessões inglezas na America do Norte representou um valor de $200,450; em 1898 foi de $234,446, e em 1899 de $338,216. Semelhante augmento verificou-se no commercio com as Antilhas e as Bermudas, pois as cifras foram de $230,511 em 1897, de $249,042 em 1898, e de $363,244 em 1899. Para o Mexico se exportou calçado em 1897 por valor de $48,065; em 1898 a exportação ascendeu a $61,210, e em 1899 a $153,222.

A exportação em Abril deste anno mostra tambem augmento de importancia, comparada com a do mesmo mez do anno passado, pois em 1898 foi, no mencionado mez, de $163,241, e em 1899 de $346,366. A differença é como segue: Para a Grã Bretanha se exportou calçado em Abril de 1898 por valor de $33,607, e no mesmo mez de 1899, $89,717; para as possessões inglezas na America do Norte, $33,074 em 1898, e $47,785 em 1899; para as Antilhas e as Bermudas, $23,689 em 1898, e $86,728 em 1899; para o Mexico, $5,901 em 1898, e $25,837 em 1899. Para a Australia a exportação em Abril de 1898 foi por valor de $14,488, e no mesmo mez do anno em curso, de $37,863. A exportação total para aquelle paiz durante os dez mezes que terminaram em Abril, foi em 1899 de $344,598, em quanto que no mesmo periodo de 1898 não passou de $184,151.

A exportação de couro de sola durante os dez mezes que terminaram em Abril de 1899 foi de 31,621,856 libras, com um valor de $5,333,213. Outras classes de couro foram exportadas no mesmo periodo correspondente a 1898 em quantidades avaliadas em $11,102,863.

O grande desenvolvimento a que tem chegado nos Estados Unidos a industria de calçado é devido a que este artigo fabrica-se aqui com mais perfeição que em outros paizes e aos mesmos preços. Hoje os Estados Unidos quasi não importam calçado de nenhuma parte, e em troca o exportam para a Grã Bretanha, França, Allemanha, o Canadá, a America Central e a America do Sul, Australia, a Africa Meridional, etc., e a exportação vai augmentando de dia em dia. Na cidade de Paris a quantidade de calçado americano que se consumiu durante o presente anno economico, foi quasi o duplo da consumida no anno anterior. Em todos os paizes em que o calçado dos Estados Unidos tem sido introduzido, reconhece-se já o facto de que é mais elegante, duradeiro e commodo do que o que se fabrica em outras partes do mundo, sem que por isto seja seu preço maior.

TRATADO DE RECIPROCIDADE COM A BARBADA.

Em 16 de Junho de 1899 se firmou na Secretaria de Estado em Washington um tratado de reciprocidade celebrado entre os Estados Unidos e a Grã Bretanha referente ao commercio entre aquelle paiz e a Colonia Britannica da Barbada. Este é o primeira tratado negociado de accordo com a Secção 4 da Lei de "Tarifa de Dingley," e tambem o primeiro da serie que as colonias britannicas que estão situadas ao sul

dos Estados Unidos estão tratando de negociar. O dito tratado com a Barbada é pelo prazo de cinco annos, mas como ha de ser submettido ao Senado para sua approvação, a Secretaria de Estado não pode publicar ainda os termos em que está concebido.

A Secção 4 da Lei de Tarifa vigente dispõe a reducção de "não mais de 20 por cento (dos direitos) sobre os ditos artigos, productos ou mercadorias que se designem alli como procedentes do paiz ou paizes com os quaes se celebrou o dito tratado ou tratados segundo prescreve esta secção; ou sempre que se dispuzer que durante o mencionado periodo os ditos artigos, productos ou mercadorias sejam transferidos da lista dos artigos onerados com direitos para a lista dos artigos livres de direitos, que sejam productos naturaes de tal paiz ou taes paizes estrangeiros, e não productos dos Estados Unidos."

O assucar é o principal producto da Barbada, cujo commercio em 1898 alcançou a $2,208,000. Os artigos que os Estados Unidos exportam para a ilha são, em sua maior parte, productos alimenticios. Quasi todos os artigos manufacturados teem viudo até agora da Grã Bretanha. No passado os consules americanos na Barbada teem chamado a attenção para a procura que ha alli por manteiga, conservas em lata, carruagens, bicyclettas, effectos para a electricidade e cimento.

O Consul MacAllister diz nas "Relacões Commerciaes dos Estados Unidos para 1898," pagina 108, que as importações feitas por Bridgetown em 1897 alcançaram a $5,043,495 contra $5,244,435 em 1896. As importações dos Estados Unidos durante o dito anno mostraram uma diminuição de $175,886. Em 1897 importaram-se dos Estados Unidos productos alimenticios no valor de $1,253,895, contra $483,755 procedentes da Grã Bretanha. Por outra parte, os productos manufacturados importados da Grã Bretanha alcançaram a $658,785, emquanto que os Estados Unidos só enviaram por valor de $116,600.

Segundo a mesma auctoridade, as exportações em 1897 foram maiores do que as de 1896, na quantia de $90,674, perfazendo um total de $3,680,000. A quantidade total de assucar exportado em 1897 alcançou a 67,609 toneis. A mandioca foi exportada por valor de $18,800, dos quaes corresponderam $12,967 aos Estados Unidos.

CONDIÇÃO DAS COLHEITAS PRINCIPAES.

Segundo as estatisticas preliminares da Secretaria da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos, a extensão do terreno semeado em milho este anno excede á do anno de 1898 em 5 por cento. A extensão total do terreno em cultivo nos vinte e um Estados é de 1,000,000 geiras. Todos estes Estados, com a excepção de tres, mostram um augmento na extensão do terreno semeado. A condição média da colheita é de 86.5 comparada com 90.5, em 1º de Julho de 1898 e 82.9 na data correspondente de 1897; 91.1 é a condição média para o mez de Julho nos ultimos dez annos. A condição da colheita nos principaes Estados é como se segue: Ohio e

Missouri, 85; Indiana, 90; Illinois, 86; Iowa, 81; Kansas, 92, e Nebraska, 93.

Quanto ao trigo, a condição das variedades de trigo de inverno mostra ainda maior diminuição, sendo 65.6 em 1° de Julho de 1899, comparada com 86.7 e 81.2 nos annos de 1898 e 1897 respectivamente, e 82.4, a condição média da colheita nos ultimos dez annos.

A condição média do centeio de inverno é de 83.3, comparada com 93.8 em 1° de Julho de 1898; 95, na data correspondente do anno de 1897, e 90.5 a condição média para o mez de Julho nos ultimos dez annos. Quanto ao centeio de primavera, a condição média é de 89.7, contra 96.9 em 1° de Julho de 1898, e 90, da data correspondente de 1897, e 90.6, a média dos ultimos dez annos.

A condição média da colheita de aveia é de 90. Foi de 88.7 em 1° de Julho de 1899, 92.8 na data correspondente de 1898, e 87.7 a média dos ultimos dez annos. A condição média da cevada é de 92, comparada com 85.7 de 1° de Julho de 1898, e 88.3 a média dos ultimos dez annos. Houve um augmento de 1 por cento na extensão do terreno semeado em batatas e a colheita promette ser boa. Segundo as noticias recebidas sobre a colheita de lã, o peso médio da tosquia é de 5.95 libras, o qual mostra um augmento de 0.15 libras sobre o do anno passado. A condição média do algodão é de 87.8, comparada com 91.2 em 1° Julho de 1898, e 88 a média nos ultimos dez annos.

Segundo o "Journal of Commerce" de Nova York, houve grande movimento na exportação de cereaes dos Estados Unidos nas duas semanas findas em 8 de Julho; a exportação total de trigo foi de 2,864,000 alqueires; milho, 5,096,000 alqueires; centeio, 117,000, e aveia, 825,000. O augmento no *stock* do trigo americano durante o mez de Junho foi o maior na historia do paiz. O *stock* de trigo nos Estados Unidos e no Canadá, em 1° de Julho foi de cerca de 50,000,000 alqueires, o qual mostra um augmento de 4,000,000 alqueires para o mez de Junho, contra uma diminuição de mais de 11,000,000 alqueires em Junho de 1898. O *stock* da Europa diminuiu em cerca de 2,500,000 alqueires durante o mez. O *stock* total do mundo armazenado nos Estados Unidos, Canadá, Europa, Australia e nos portos principaes da Argentina, ascendeu a 133,501,000 alqueires, o qual mostra um augmento de 1,000,000 alqueires durante o mez de Junho, contra uma diminuição do *stock* do mundo em Junho de 1898 de mais de 19,000,000 alqueires.

O *stock* total americano em 1° de Julho foi mais que o dobro do da data correspondente do anno passado. O *stock* da Europa mostra um augmento de 10,000,000 alqueires sobre o de 1° de Julho de 1898, e o *stock* do mundo um augmento de 48,000,000 alqueires. O total da exportação de trigo de todos os paizes para a Europa no periodo decorrido entre 1° de Agosto de 1898 e 24 de Junho de 1899, attingiu a 342,840,000 alqueires, ou uma diminuição de 54,600,000 alqueires sobre a exportação total do anno anterior.

PRODUCÇÃO DE PETROLEO NO MUNDO.

Segundo os dados estatisticos ultimamente publicados pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Fazenda dos Estados Unidos, a producção annual de petroleo em todo o mundo ascende a mais de 5,000,000,000 de galões, e desta quantidade os Estados Unidos produzem 2,500,000,000; Russia, 2,250,000,000, e o resto sae de varios outros paizes, que são Austria, Sumatra, Java, Canadá, Rumania, India, Japão, Allemanha, o Peru e a Italia. Ainda que a producção de petroleo crú é quasi igual nos Estados Unidos e na Russia, a quantidade de oleo refinado para illuminação que produz o primeiro destes dois paizes é quasi dobre da que produz o segundo.

Isto deve-se a que uma quantidade dada de petroleo americano dá tres quartas partes de seu volume de oleo refinado, emquanto que o petroleo russo produz sómente tres oitavas partes. Depois da Russia, Sumatra é o paiz que faz maior concurrencia aos Estados Unidos no dito artigo, porque seu petroleo crú dá a metade de seu volume de oleo refinado, e porque, além disto, encontra-se mais cerca das nações orientaes que figuram entre os principaes mercados para este producto. Até a data, sem embargo, a quantidade de petroleo produzida em Sumatra é pequena, si se a compara com a que saé dos Estados Unidos ou da Russia, pois em 1897 aquella ilha sómente produziu 72,258,000 galões.

A Grã Bretanha consome mais petroleo americano que qualquer outra nação do globo. Durante o ultimo anno economico se exportaram para aquelle paiz 212,265,563 galões. A quantidade de oleo refinado para a illuminação exportada dos Estados Unidos em 1898 foi de 900,998,875 galões, emquanto que a Russia sómente exportou como a terça parte.

O periodico "Le Nouveau Monde," que se publica em Paris, annuncia, em seu numero correspondente ao 17 de Junho deste anno, que se teem descoberto no Mexico, cerca de Puebla, grandes depositos de petroleo, e que se está organizando actualmente uma companhia mexicana para exploral-os.

PRODUCÇÃO DE OURO.

Ao principio deste anno o Director da casa da moeda publicou alguns dados preliminares relativamente á producção de ouro em 1898. Segundo os calculos feitos então, a producção total dos Estados Unidos, incluindo a Alaska, foi de $65,782,677, o qual mostra um augmento de $8,400,000 sobre o anno precedente. O funccionario em referencia acaba de dar a luz seus calculos finaes, os quaes confirmam em muitos respeitos os anteriormente publicados, ainda que differem em quanto á producção total que foi cerca de $1,400,000 menos do que se calculou ao principio.

As principaes secções do paiz productoras de ouro no anno referido, foram, na ordem de sua importancia, as seguintes: Colorado, California, Dakota do Sul, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, o Estado de Washington, Novo Mexico, Georgia e a Carolina do Sul.

Quanto á producção de prata, tambem se tem notado um augmento, ainda que ligeiro. Os principaes Estados productores deste metal foram Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho e California. Outras secções do paiz produziram tambem prata, mas em quantidades menores. A producção deste metal em 1898 ascendeu a 54,438,000 onças.

Crê-se que a quantidade de ouro que os Estados Unidos produziram em 1899 será, mais ou menos, igual á do anno passado. Calcula-se que da só região de Klondike em Alaska, se extrahirá neste anno o metal amarello por valor de $20,000,000.

URUGUAY.

BALANÇO DO BANCO DA REPUBLICA EM ABRIL DE 1899.

A "Nacion" de Montevidéo publica o balanço do Banco da Republica em 30 de Abril (o balanço do mez anterior foi publicado no BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Junho, pagina 2196) que compõe-se das seguintes sommas:

Credito.—Acções não emittidas de 2ª serie, $5,000,000; acções de bonus não emittidas, $1,962,366.30; diversos devedores da Caixa Matriz e das Caixas Filiaes, $8,195,018.98; valor dos depositos, $3,219,738; apolices do Emprestimo Extraordinario de 1897 do valor nominal de $750,000 a 64 por cento, em garantia dos depositos judiciaes, $480,000; dinheiro em caixa, $4,986,039.42; total, $23,842,158.49.

Debito.—Capital nominal, $12,000,000; diversos credores, $3,234,005.31; valor dos depositos, $3,218,733.29; depositos judiciaes, $397,416.64; serviço do Emprestimo Extraordinario, pagamentos feitos pela Direcção Geral de Taxas Directas, $84,168.55; notas em circulação, $4,720,202; fundo de reserva, $37,633; fundo de previsão, $150,000; total, $23,842,158.49.

NOTAS BIBLIOGRAPHICAS.

"Manual dos Estados Unidos e o Mexico para os Viajantes, publicado por Karl Baedeker. Leipzig, 1899."—O alto gráo de excellencia a que o publico por tanto tempo tem sido acostumado nos manuaes de Baedeker, é mantido neste volume, escripto pelo Sr. J. F. MUIRHEAD, quem, desde a preparação deste, tem escripto um outro volume muito interessante sobre a vida e os costumes nos Estados Unidos, intitulado "A Terra de Contrastes."

Esse livro comprehende, além de uma descripção dos Estados Unidos e da Alaska, uma excursão á cidade de Mexico e Veracruz.

Os dezenove mappas e vinte e quatro planos de diversas cidades dos Estados Unidos que acompanham a este volume foram cuidadosamente preparados sob a inspecção do Sr. HENRY GANNETT, da Repartição de Estudos Geologicos dos Estados Unidos.

Nesse manual, como nos outros da serie, ha alguns capitulos de introducção sobre varios assumptos de interesse relativos aos Estados Unidos, escriptos por auctoridades reconhecidas, taes como "Uma Curta Historia da Politica Americana," por Professor JOHN BACH MCMASTER; "Constituição e Governo dos Estados Unidos," pelo Honrado JAMES BRYCE, auctor da "Communidade Americana," e a "Physiographia da America do Norte," pelo Professor N. S. SHALER, da Universidade de Harvard.

O numero supplementario (127) do "Mitteilungen" do Dr. A. PETERMANNS (JUSTUS PERTHES' Geographischer Anstalt, Gotha, 1899) contem um tratado acerca da formação das montanhas e do solo da parte septentrional da America Central, escripto pelo Dr. CARL SAPPER, como resultado de suas investigações durante os annos corridos entre 1888-1897. Esta obra é a continuação de outras escriptas pelo mesmo auctor e que são: "Geographia Physica de Guatemala" (PETERMANN'S Mitteilungen-Supplemento, No. 113, 1893); "Geographia Physica de Chiapas, Tabasco e Yucatan" (Boletim No. 3 do Instituto Geologico do Mexico, 1895) e tambem um relatorio ao Governo de Belize (1896) que ainda não tem sido publicado. Na presente obra estão comprehendidas as anteriores formando um todo completo, ao qual se juntam os resultados obtidos de uma viagem pelo Salvador e a parte occidental de Honduras desde o limite occidental dos Estados Mexicanos de Chiapas e Tabasco até os limites da America Central, entre Puerto Cortez e a Bahia de Fonseca.

O auctor diz que tem limitado seus trabalhos principalmente á geologia, orographia, hydrographia e solo dos differentes lugares, havendo já preparado a cartographia do area de formação vegetal e das regiões pluviaes mais importantes da parte septentrional da America Central ("Das Nördliche Mittelamerika" Brunswick, 1897, e tambem Petermanns Mitteilungen, 1897, vol. 6).

Esta contribuição feita pelo Dr. SAPPER á litteratura scientifica em sua ultima obra, é da maior importancia desde logo que faz uma revista cuidadosa das condições actuaes e do actual estado de conhecimentos aos quaes se accrescenta o resultado de suas recentes investigações. Ainda que a obra do Dr. SAPPER tem sido escripta para os homens de sciencia, quem indubitavelmente formarão o maior núcleo de seus leitores, ha muito de interesse para os leitores em geral que desejem obter informações acerca dos paizes em questão.

O volume contem os seguintes mappas:

I. Mappa original da Parte Septentrional da America Central, compilado e traçado pelo Dr. CARL SAPPER. Escala, 1: 1,100,000.

II. Mappa Geologico da Parte Septentrional da America Central, pelo Dr. CARL SAPPER. Escala, 1: 1,100,000.

III. Esboço de um Mappa Superficial da Parte Septentrional da America Central, pelo Dr. CARL SAPPER, 1897. Escala, 1: 3,000,000.

IV e V. Perfil, Geologico de Yucatán, Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala, etc., compilado e traçado pelo Dr. CARL SAPPER. Escala de longitudes, 1: 250,000; escala de alturas, 1: 100,000. No. 1, Perfil de Yucatán (1: 800,000 e 1: 40,000); No. 2–9, Perfil de Chiapas e Tabasco; No. 9ª, Perfil de Belize; No. 10–23, Perfil de Guatemala; No. 24 e 25, Perfil de Honduras.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. JUILLET, 1899. No. 1.

MR. W. W. ROCKHILL EST NOMMÉ DIRECTEUR DU BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

Monsieur le Général RUSSELL HASTINGS, de Massachusetts, qui avait été nommé Directeur du Bureau des Républiques Américaines, le 20 mars 1898, ayant donné sa démission avant d'être entré en fonctions, ainsi que le BULLETIN MENSUEL du mois d'avril l'a fait connaître, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères des Etats-Unis, en vertu de l'autorité qui lui a été conférée par le Comité Exécutif de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines, a nommé à ce poste, le 7 avril 1899, W. W. ROCKHILL, ex-Ministre des Etats-Unis en Grèce.

Monsieur ROCKHILL est entré en fonctions le 20 mai 1899.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

COMMERCE EN PRODUITS AGRICOLES PENDANT LE PREMIER SEMESTRE DE 1899.

M. ERNESTO DANVERS, correspondant spécial du "Weekly Northwestern Miller," a écrit de Buenos-Ayres en date du 5 mai 1899, un intéressant article, auquel nous empruntons les faits suivants:

Le Congrès chilien s'est réuni le 1er mai, et le discours du Président (dont un résumé est publié dans le BULLETIN MENSUEL de juin, page 2145) a eu pour résultat de faire monter la prime de l'or d'environ dix points, mais à la date de la lettre de Mr. DANVERS, le marché avait retrouvé son calme ordinaire et la prime avait baissé de nouveau.

L'auteur dit que la Banque Nationale doit créer un large fonds de réserve en or, et que le Congrès va décréter un taux fixe pour la conversion en or du papier-monnaie, qui sera fixé, croit-on, à 230 ou 250.

Dans le rapport des transactions commerciales pour le premier trimestre de l'année en cours, les importations figurent pour une somme de $29,821,072 en or, soit une plus-value de $3,740,876 sur la période correspondante de 1898. Les exportations pour la même période s'élèvent à $47,532,893, soit une augmentation de $3,562,088. Le commerce du Brésil montre un accroissement de $1,616,759 en or, pour le compte des importations, et une diminution de $158,211 dans les exportations. Les importations de machines agricoles ont été les suivantes: Charrues, 14,399; égrenoirs de maïs, 466; faucilles, 14 tonnes; râteaux à chevaux, 918; moissonneuses et relieurs, 53; autres moissonneuses, 1,117; batteuses mécaniques, 4. La valeur totale de ces articles s'est élevée à $356,112 en or, soit une plus-value de $286,000 en comparaison avec la même période de l'année 1898.

Les exportations de produits agricoles ont été comme suit: Blé, 364,372 tonnes, évaluées à $9,182,167, soit une augmentation de 16,107 tonnes, mais une diminution en valeur de $1,962,312; chanvre, 90,905 tonnes, évaluées à $3,090,777, une diminution de 4,866 tonnes et de $69,664 en évaluation; farine, 8,439 tonnes, d'une valeur de $354,457, soit une augmentation en quantité de 1,786 tonnes et de $61,835 en valeur; son, 12,303 tonnes, évaluées à $151,311, une augmentation de 5,244 tonnes et de $75,790 en valeur.

Le 1er mai 1898, le blé était coté sur la place de Rio à $12.50 par 100 kilogrammes, contre $5.20 à la même date en 1899. Les cours du chanvre aux mêmes dates étaient de $10 et $7.20 respectivement par 100 kilogrammes. La prime sur l'or le 1er mai 1899, était de 132 contre 164 le 1er mai 1898.

La "Review of the River Plate" (Buenos-Ayres, 13 mai) a fourni les statistiques suivantes relativement aux importations et exportations de la République Argentine pour le premier trimestre de 1899.

Pays.	Importations.	Exportations.
Royaume-Uni	$11, 383, 548	$4, 674, 386
Italie	3, 698, 244	1, 223, 826
Allemagne	3, 685, 693	9, 387, 003
Etats-Unis	3, 513, 086	1, 553, 968
France	2, 827, 638	11, 910, 470
Belgique	2, 507, 327	6, 536, 455
Brésil	1, 040, 970	1, 713, 048
Espagne	645, 742	354, 823
Paraguay	292, 607	52, 997
Uruguay	129, 607	734, 643
Hollande	27, 356	120, 139
Portugal	23, 733	9, 407
Chili	19, 082	123, 011
Bolivie	7, 566	112, 881
Indes Occidentales	4, 275	52, 438
Autres pays	14, 598	2, 107, 770
Commandes	.....	6, 865, 628
Total	29, 821, 072	47, 532, 893

BRÉSIL.

COMMERCE DES CUIRS.

M. GEORGES RITT, Consul de France à Rio de Janeiro, vient de faire paraître dans le "Moniteur Officiel," de Paris, du 11 mai, un intéressant article sur le commerce des cuirs et articles en cuir au Brésil.

Il paraît, d'après cet article, qu'autrefois la France possédait, pour ainsi dire, le monopole de ce genre de commerce, n'ayant pour concurrents sérieux que l'Angleterre et l'Autriche. Aujourd'hui l'Allemagne et les Etats-Unis sont entrés en lice, occasionnant une diminution très importante dans les importations françaises. Au cours des six premiers mois de l'année 1898, le port allemand de Hambourg a expédié à destination du Brésil 141,000 kilogrammes de cuir et d'articles en cuir, dont 40,000 kilogrammes de chaussures, le tout représentant 2,000,000 de francs environ. Pendant le même semestre de 1898, les envois de cuir de New-York se sont élevés à 391 caisses d'articles en cuir et 714 balles de peaux préparées, contre 378 caisses et 256 balles des mêmes articles pour toute l'année 1897.

Les envois d'Angleterre ont plutôt diminué. Pendant les six premiers mois de 1898, la valeur des importations de cuir et d'articles en cuir provenant de l'Angleterre, dont 20,000 livres sterling de chaussures, a atteint le chiffre de 38,000 livres sterling contre 61,000 livres de chaussures et 23,000 livres d'articles divers, formant un total de 84,000 livres sterling pour l'année 1898.

M. RITT dit que l'importation de peaux préparées a pris une grande importance depuis l'essor de l'industrie locale qui fabrique aujourd'hui avec les cuirs provenant du dehors des articles qu'on recevait autrefois tout fabriqués de l'étranger. En 1894, le seul port de Rio de Janeiro avait importé des cuirs et peaux préparés, formant un poids total de 529,208 kilogrammes, représentant une valeur de 4,500,000 francs. Sur ce total la France était représentée par 351,564 kilogrammes, tandis que les provenances anglaises ne dépassaient pas 94,956 kilogrammes, les provenances d'Allemagne et d'Autriche 75,132 kilogrammes, et les provenances nord-américaines 8,288 kilogrammes. Aujourd'hui les importations de cuirs et de peaux préparés pour toute la République sont supérieures à 1,300,000 kilogrammes, dont 800,000 kilogrammes pour Rio seulement. Les envois de France qui représentaient autrefois 60 à 65 pour cent du total, ne représentent plus guère aujourd'hui que 40 à 50 pour cent. Il paraît que l'une des spécialités françaises—les veaux cirés et vernis—aurait été plus atteinte que toute autre branche des articles en cuir, à cause de la concurrence du produit analogue de Hambourg et de la "vaquette" de New-York, qui offre l'avantage du bon marché.

Les droits sur les cuirs et peaux préparés d'après l'article cité sont les suivants:

Peaux: castor, loutre et hermine, 7:600 reis le kilogramme; autres cuirs, non spécifiés, 2:500 reis le kilogramme. Cuirs préparés naturels: "vaquette," 1:800 reis le kilogramme; maroquinerie, 2:200 reis le kilogramme; non spécifiés, couleur naturelle, 1:400 reis le kilogramme; non spécifiés, teints, 2:200 reis le kilogramme. Cuirs vernis ou cirés: cuirs à grains, dits de Russie, 6:000 reis le kilogramme; cuirs lisses de Russie et tous autres cuirs à grains ou lisses, 3:000 reis le kilogramme.

La plupart des malles, sacs, valises, etc., en cuir sont de provenance française. Les fabricants locaux fabriquent, plus ou moins grossièrement, des valises et malles, dont la plupart sont recouvertes de peaux naturelles conservant tous leurs poils. Tant à Rio qu'à Santos, il y a un grand nombre d'usines à vapeur pour la fabrication de chaussures. Ces usines fonctionnent avec un certain succès.

La fabrique de chaussures est devenue une industrie nationale limitant par conséquent de plus en plus l'importation de chaussures fines. La vente des chaussures indigènes est d'ailleurs favorisée par le régime douanier, dont les droits sur les chaussures d'importation étrangère représentent en certains cas plus de 60 pour cent de la valeur de l'article. Ces droits sont les suivants: bottes, 15:000 à 20:000 reis la paire, suivant la dimension et qualité; bottines, 5:000 à 7:000 reis la paire, suivant la dimension et qualité; souliers découverts ou brodequins, 1:700 à 3:200 reis la paire, suivant la dimension et qualité.

En outre de ces droits d'importation les chaussures étrangères ou nationales indistinctement, sont frappés depuis le 1er janvier 1899 d'un droit variant de $0.11 à $0.546, suivant la qualité; cet impôt exige qu'un timbre soit apposé sur chaque paire de chaussures.

D'après les statistiques douanières de 1894, les dernières qu'on ait pu obtenir, les entrées de chaussures étrangères à Rio de Janeiro avaient été de 996,926 paires, évaluées à 4,500,000 francs.

Dans les Etats de Rio Grande do Sul et de Minas Geraes on fabrique des selles et harnais dont les garnitures en argent sont très appréciées par les habitants du pays. Ces articles ont quelquefois une grande valeur. On importe la plus grande partie des harnachements pour chevaux de trait, pour équipages de maître, ainsi que pour voitures de place.

RARETÉ DE L'IPÉCACUANA SUR LE MARCHÉ.

Le "American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record" contient, dans son numéro du 20 juin (page 341), un article intitulé ("The Ipecac of Rio and Cartagena.") La variété citée en premier lieu est bien connue dans le commerce des drogues des Etats-Unis, tandis que l'importation de la seconde variété est défendue par les autorités de la douane. Mais comme l'espèce provenant de Rio devient de plus en plus rare, on a

recherché celle de Carthagène, ou nouvelle racine de la Nouvelle-Granade, dont l'aspect ne diffère pas matériellement de celui de la racine brésilienne. On remarque seulement pour toute différence que les anneaux qui caractérisent l'ipécacuana sont moins prononcés.

C'est dans les effets physiologiques qu'on suppose que l'ipécacuana de Carthagène diffère de la variété brésilienne; la première, contenant moins d'émétine que la dernière, doit plutôt son efficacité au principe actif de céphaline, qui produit un effet différent de celui de l'émétine. * * * Si l'on défend l'importation de l'ipécacuana de Carthagène, c'est sans doute à cause du peu de renseignements que l'on possède au sujet de ses effets physiologiques en comparaison de l'ipécacuana de Rio, sur lequel on base l'efficacité de l'ipécacuana comme agent thérapeutique. * * * Il est étonnant * * * qu'on n'ait pas commencé plus tôt des recherches physiologiques pour déterminer l'action de la céphaline, l'alkaloïde qui distingue la variété de Carthagène. A cet égard l'histoire des deux variétés d'ipécacuana est en contraste avec celle de plusieurs autres agents réparateurs qui ont été le sujet d'études pharmacologiques.

L'ipécacuana est une plante grimpante vivace qu'on trouve à l'état sauvage au Brésil. Cette plante a une odeur particulière et un goût un peu âcre, nauséabond. On emploie beaucoup la racine comme émétique. Cette racine est petite, étant marquée par des protubérances régulières ou anneaux. Depuis que la récolte du caoutchouc a pris tant d'importance au Brésil, ceux qui autrefois s'occupaient de la récolte et de la préparation de racines pour le marché ont en général abandonné cette dernière occupation en faveur de la première, qui est plus profitable et moins pénible. Il en est résulté que la quantité d'ipécacuana a beaucoup diminué et on n'en récolte même pas maintenant. Aux Etats-Unis les marchands qui avaient prévu la possibilité d'une rareté de la drogue ont maintenant presque le monopole du marché. Les prix ont constamment augmenté ces dix dernières années. En 1898, le prix par livre était de $1.25, mais maintenant il est de $4.25. A cause de cette grande augmentation de prix les cultivateurs brésiliens pourraient, pour quelque temps au moins, trouver plus de profit dans la récolte de l'ipécacuana que dans celle du caoutchouc.

CHILI.

DÉCROISSEMENT DU COMMERCE D'IMPORTATION À VALPARAISO.

"Le Moniteur Officiel" publie dans son numéro du 27 avril une communication de Mr. ROBIN, gérant du Consulat français à Valparaiso, sur les entrées de la douane dans ce port et sur les causes du décroissement du commerce d'importation.

Le tableau suivant, publié par l'administration des douanes, donne, mois par mois, le chiffre des entrées pendant les deux dernières années.

Il ressort de ces chiffres que les entrées dans ce port étaient en 1898 de 2,090,311 piastres de moins qu'en 1897:

Mois.	1897.	1898.
	Piastres.	*Piastres.*
Janvier	845, 008. 98	1, 300, 146. 26
Février	959, 389. 53	1, 113, 952. 29
Mars	1, 894, 978. 21	1, 630, 295. 63
Avril	1, 400, 298. 74	1, 216, 610. 83
Mai	1, 278, 783. 93	1, 169, 346. 69
Juin	1, 134, 584. 72	995, 255. 26
Juillet	1, 361, 377. 03	429, 104. 43
Août	1, 350, 326. 76	1, 861, 024. 01
Septembre	1, 345, 776. 26	1, 311, 150. 47
Octobre	1, 494, 792. 64	1, 104, 265. 36
Novembre	1, 512, 720. 77	1, 046, 789. 21
Décembre	2, 088, 331. 81	1, 335, 527. 45
Total	16, 666, 824. 38	14, 576, 512. 89

Le Consul, commentant sur ces données, dit que l'Administration chilienne prétend que les causes de cette diminution sont au nombre de deux:

1°. La quantité extraordinaire de marchandises importées au Chili pendant les mois de novembre et de décembre 1897, dans le but d'éviter le paiement des droits plus élevés établis par la nouvelle loi douanière, mise en vigueur le 1er janvier, et,

2°. La perturbation produite dans le commerce d'importation pendant le mois de juillet dernier par la fermeture des banques, par la loi dite "de délai" (moratoria), par le rétablissement du cours forcé du papier-monnaie et par le paiement obligatoire en or des droits de douane.

Il est sans doute vrai que ces causes ont contribué à la condition actuelle, si peu satisfaisante, mais il faut en chercher la vraie cause dans les droits élevés que l'Administration a établis et qui sont actuellement pour un grand nombre de produits étrangers absolument prohibitifs.

Depuis le mois de juillet dernier, les affaires d'importation ont sensiblement diminué. Le môle fiscal, qui naguère était rempli de marchandises venant de l'étranger, travaille à peine trois ou quatre jours par semaine. Les navires venant de l'Europe n'apportent plus à Valparaiso qu'un fret minime. L'explication de ces faits est facile à trouver: la dépréciation du papier-monnaie diminue la puissance d'achat des traitements et des salaires, et la grande majorité de la population se voit dans l'obligation de restreindre ses dépenses. D'après le tableau qui précède, il résulte que la douane de Valparaiso a encaissé, jusqu'au 30 juin, 7,512,999 piastres en 1897 et 7,425,606 en 1898, de sorte que la moins-value de 2,090,311 piastres sur les entrées en 1898 provient presque entièrement des recettes du deuxième semestre quand la nouvelle émission de papier-monnaie a eu lieu.

Tout d'ailleurs, dit Mr. ROBIN, en terminant son rapport, fait jusqu'à présent supposer que les entrées douanières de 1899 seront inférieures à celles de l'année qui vient de s'écouler.

SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DU CHILI.

D'après les dernières nouvelles reçues du Chili, il paraît qu'une amélioration sensible se fait sentir dans la situation financière de cette République. Au commencement de l'année en cours, le taux du change était de 12¼ pence et le prix de l'or de 144 pour cent. A la fin du mois de mai le cours du change variait de 15 à 16 pence et le prix de l'or était entre 115 et 120 pour cent. En janvier des traites sur Londres

payables en or ne rapportaient que de 17½ à 17¾ pence pour chaque peso-or, tandis qu'à la date citée plus haut, on obtenait 18¼ pence, c'est-à-dire, un quart d'un sou au-dessus du pair, ce qui montre qu'on ne peut plus exporter de l'or du Chili, mais qu'on en conseille plutôt l'importation.

"El Mercurio" de Valparaiso, en date du 22 mai 1899, essaie de découvrir les causes qui ont amené cette amélioration, et entre d'autres il cite en premier lieu, la hausse dans le prix du cuivre et dit que, d'après les calculs faits, si le prix se maintient pendant l'année 1899, à environ 70 livres sterling par tonne, même si la production n'augmentait pas pendant cette période, la hausse de prix seulement, rapporterait au marché chilien une somme dépassant de 600,000 à 700,000 livres sterling la somme obtenue en 1898. Ce fait seul suffit à porter remède à la situation financière. Les importations pour 1897 ont dépassé les exportations de 1,589,698 pesos, tandis qu'en 1898 les exportations dépassaient les importations de 65,807,373 pesos.

Le journal cité donne d'autres raisons qui sont d'un caractère domestique, n'ayant aucune importance internationale et il se montre très satisfait de voir la situation économique améliorée simplement par le cours ordinaire des événements.

COLOMBIE.

MODIFICATIONS DOUANIÈRES.

Le "Bulletin International des Douanes" vient d'envoyer à ce Bureau le supplément suivant contenant les dernières modifications apportées aux lois de douane:

I. ORDONNANCE MINISTÉRIELLE DU 30 DÉCEMBRE 1898 AUTORISANT L'IMPORTATION DES ALLUMETTES.

En vertu d'une ordonnance ministérielle en date du 30 décembre 1898, sont autorisés la fabrication, l'importation et le commerce des allumettes moyennant l'observation des lois en vigueur.

II. ORDONNANCE MINISTÉRIELLE DU 4 JANVIER 1899 RELATIVE AU RÉGIME APPLICABLE À LA STÉARINE.

En vertu d'une ordonnance ministérielle en date du 4 janvier 1899, la stéarine rangée sous le nº 87 du tarif est assimilée à l'acide stéarique et suivra le régime de ce dernier produit tarifé, d'après le nº 90 du tarif, à raison de 1 *centavo* le kilogramme.

HAÏTI.

RESSOURCES INEXPLOITÉES DU PAYS.

M. le Professeur EDMOND ROUMAIN, fils D'ERNEST ROUMAIN qui a établi la Légation d'Haïti à Washington sous l'administration du Président LINCOLN, est venu aux Etats-Unis en juin dernier pour intéresser les capitalistes dans l'exploitation de mines à Haïti. Le Professeur ROUMAIN, qui est membre de la faculté de l'École Médicale Pharmaceutique de Port-au-Prince, a consacré beaucoup de temps à l'étude des formations géologiques de son pays. Au cours d'une entrevue, publiée par le "New York Tribune" du 29 juin, il s'est exprimé ainsi au sujet des grandes ressources inexploitées de la République:

On trouve dans la partie nord d'Haïti et sur un rayon de plusieurs lieues, des gisements de cuivre, de fer, de nickel, de gypse, de pierres a chaux stratifiées et de porhyre et deseaux sulfureuses. Un de ces produits suffirait pour faire fortune et cependant on n'a pas encore essayé d'en exploiter un seul. Lorsque les Français étaient maîtres de ce pays, ils cherchaient à cacher l'existence de ces mines de peur d'exciter la cupidité des Anglais et après l'etablissement de la République on n'a fait aucun effort pour l'exploitation des richesses énormes qui gisent dans le sol d'Haïti.

J'ai apporté de magnifiques échantillons de minerai que j'ai ramassésà la surface du sol et que j'ai l'intention de faire analyser à l'Université de Colombia à New York. Le Gouvernement m'accordera la concession de l'exploitation minière de cette région et mon désir est de former une compagnie de capitalistes américains pour commencer cette exploitation le plus tôt possible. Le Gouvernement ne peut pas vendre les mines. Il peut vendre la surface du sol, mais tout ce qui se trouve en dessous lui appartient et est inaliénable. Il faut louer le terrain.

Dans le 6e volume du BULLETIN MENSUEL, on trouve d'amples renseignments au sujet de la richhesse minérale d'Haïti, et à la page 19 il y a un rapport sur les gisement houillers, par HENRI THOMASSET, ingénieur. Ce fut à l'obligeance de Monsieur J. N. LÉGER, Ministre d'Haïti aux Etats-Unis que le Bureau dût la connaissance de ce rapport auquel le Ministre donna son approbation. Page 460, il y a un rapport du Ministre des Etats-Unis, Monsieur POWELL, sur la découverte du minerai de fer; page 1773, sur des gisements de charbon, de fer et de cuivre, et enfin page 2116 sur les mines de cuivre et de fer.

Nous savons aussi (BULLETIN VI p. 1613) que le Gouvernement d'Haïti a le plus grand désir d'encourager le placement de capitaux des Etats-Unis dans la République en vue d'aider au développement des richesses inexploitées du pays.

OCCASIONS QU 'OFFRE LE HAITI AMÉRICAIN AU COMMERCE.

Le Bureau des Républiques Américaines doit à l'amabilité de Mr. WILLIAM WOEL, agent consulaire des Etats-Unis à Gonaïves, Haïti, la communication suivante sur les débouchés qu'offre cette République aux marchandises américaines:

Il n'y a pas bien longtemps encore l'industrie américaine n'était guère représentée dans les marchés d'Haïti que par des articles de comestibles, tels que porc,

farine, morue, savon et bois de construction; mais depuis une vingtaine d'années, les cotonnades sont venues mettre fin au monopole exercé jusque-là par les produits de Manchester.

Les articles américains tels que denims, indiennes, calicots, gingas ont gagné plus en plus de terrain, grâce à leurs qualités réelles, luttant avantageusement contre les articles anologues anglais, où souvent le fabricant, en vue d'atteindre le plus bas prix de revient possible dissimule la qualité des tissus par des apprêts artificiels qui disparaissent dès la première lessive. De cette façon, les consommateurs ont vite appris à avoir plus de confiance dans l'article américain, même lorsqu'il lui coûte un peu plus cher.

La victoire pourrait être déjà complète pour les cotonnades américaines si les fabricants observaient certains petits détails que l'usage du marché a rendu nécessaires. Aussi les pièces de tissus doivent mesurer strictement 25 ou 12½ yards. Cette dernière dimension est devenue très populaire depuis quelques années et détermine au moins pour moitié les importations.

Pour les indiennes les fabricants américains mettent trop d'uniformité dans les dessins, trop peu de dessins dans les assortiments, et pas assez de couleurs différentes dans ces dessins.

En outre l'emballage conviendrait mieux si au lieu des caisses d'aunages, variant de 2,500 à 3,000 yards, on faisait des ballots de 625 yards, soit 25 pièces de 25 yards ou 50 pièces de 12½ yards. Les calicots gingas gagneraient aussi si on les envoyait en ballots de 625 yards, quitte à réemballer en colis de 4 à 6 ballots.

Manchester tient le premier rang pour les mouchoirs bleus et les mouchoirs batiste couleur. (Union Madras handkerchiefs). On en consomme des quantités énormes dans le pays, où tous les campagnards et même beaucoup de gens des villes (hommes, femmes et enfants) s'en servent pour coiffure. Les qualités supérieures de mouchoirs batiste en couleurs se fabriquent surtout à Belfast, Irelande.

Nous pouvons noter les articles de lin ou liu et coton, tels que brabant, batiste cambrai, peotillé, drills, ducks de fil dont le monopole est aux fabricants irlandais. Il y a aussi les lainages légers qui rentrent dans le commerce des articles de luxe et arrivent de France ou d'Angleterre et même d'Allemagne. Nous croyons que l'industrie américaine trouverait de larges débouchés en Haïti pour les articles suivants: bonneterie, chaussures pour enfants, hommes et femmes; chapeaux, paille ou feutre; chaudronnerie, ferblanterie, poterie, faïences.

Les transactions entre les deux pays sont aussi réglées par de trop courts crédits; alors que les manufacturiers européens se paient dans six mois de terme, les manufacturiers américans doivent être payés dans 60 jours et dans de rares cas en 90 jours.

L'importateur haïtien dont la clientèle locale est en général basée sur des ventes au crédit, le plus souvent même sans échéance fixe, est volontairement porté à écouter les offres des voyageurs que les maisons européennes envoient dans le pays. Les fabricants américains devraient eux aussi envoyer des commis voyageurs parlant le français qui feraient deux fois par an le tour des marchés avec échantillons à l'appui de leurs offres.

Nous pensons aussi qu'une plus grande partie du commerce haïtien se dirigerait vers les Etats-Unis si le commerce locale de banque comportait des représentants américains, c'est-à-dire des maisons américaines faisant une spécialité de transactions de change entre les deux pays. La France, l'Allemagne, l'Angleterre monopolisent en quelque sorte cette branche de commerce de banque dans le pays et nous croyons que le Haïti ne rentrera effectivement dans la voie tracée par le "Commercial Congress" que lorsque les Américains (banquiers) seront eux-mêmes représentés dans le pays.

Il est vrai que certains journaux intéressés, ainsi que des Européens établis au Haïti, cherchent parfois le moyen d'éloigner la concurrence en faisant passer la situation économique et morale du pays pour mauvaise, sans réfléchir que le lecteur pourrait bien se demander pourquoi donc ils y restent.

Lorsque l'on considère avec quelle rapidité les maisons européennes qui font ce négoce de banque prospèrent à Port-au-Prince et dans d'autres villes de la République, on est positivement étonné de ne pas pouvoir y compter d'Américains, d'autant plus que leur présence ne saurait manquer d'accentuer une influence, une prépondérance qui ne demandent qu'à naître, et auxquelles le Ministére des Relations Extérieures ne pourrait pas se montrer sans interêt.

MEXIQUE.

DEMANDE D'ARTICLES FABRIQUÉS.

Le "New York Journal of Commerce," dans son numéro du 13 juin, publie un article ayant trait à l'activité des relations commerciales entre les Etats-Unis et le Mexique. L'auteur de cet article s'exprime ainsi:

Tandis que les articles en fer et en acier, aussi bien que les machines et le matériel pour chemins de fer forment une partie considérable du commerce des deux Républiques, il y a une demande pressante pour toutes sortes d'articles fabriqués. Dans le courant d'une semaine à New York on a acheté d'occasion 125 tramways a chevaux pour expédier dans plusieurs localités du Mexique. Les fabricants n'ont pas pu s'engager à construire des tramways neufs, et après avoir fait connaître à leurs clients l'état de presse dans lequel se trouvait cette industrie, ces derniers ont été obligés d'acheter des voitures d'occasion.

On constate que la situation actuelle de l'industrie des rails d'acier embarrasse beaucoup les commerçants exportateurs. On a eu beaucoup de peine à se procurer un wagon de rails pour l'expédition, à cause de la demande énorme des marchés nationaux et étrangers. Des commandes de matériel pour construction de ponts ont été retardées, ainsi que d'autres articles composés de fer et d'acier. Toutefois la difficulté n'est pas due au prix, mais à la livraison, les fabriques se trouvant presque dans l'impossibilité de remplir les demandes extraordinaires qui leurs sont adressées.

L'ASPHALTE COMME NOUVEL ARTICLE D'EXPORTATION.

Le "Mexican Trade Review" contient, dans son numéro du 14 juin (page 141), une note intéressante sur l'avenir possible du Mexique comme pays exportateur d'asphalte. Jusqu'ici on a importé tout l'asphalte dont on se servait dans la République, mais dernièrement une compagnie du Texas, organisée en vue d'exploiter les gisements sur la côte du Golfe, a expédié de Tampico aux Etats-Unis soixante barils d'asphalte pour servir, à titre d'essai, à paver les rues de plusieurs villes.

Les promoteurs de l'entreprise se montrent satisfaits de la quantité, ainsi que de la qualité du produit. On dit aussi qu'on trouve de grands gisements d'asphalte sur la route projetée du chemin de fer "Gran Pacífico."

PÉROU.

DERNIÈRES MODIFICATIONS DOUANIÈRES.

Le "Bulletin International des Douanes," à Bruxelles, vient de nous transmettre les traductions suivantes des lois relatives aux modifications douanières:

I. Extrait de la loi du 31 décembre 1898, relative aux droits de consommation applicables aux boissons spiritueuses de toute sorte:

En vertu des articles 1 et 2 de la loi susindiquée, les boissons spiritueuses ci-après dénommées, de provenance étrangère et dont l'introduction par voie de terre est interdite, acquitteront, au moment de leur expédition dans les douanes maritimes et fluviales, un impôt de consommation dont le montant est fixé dans le tableau ci-après.

Boissons spiritueuses de provenance étrangère.

		Sols.
Bière	litre..	0.07
Absinthe, eau-de-vie à l'anis, cognac, kirsch, bitters, rhum, amers et toutes boissons spiritueuses autres que les vins	litre..	.40
Vins rouges ou blancs de Bourgogne, du Rhin, de Chypre, de Xérès, de Madère, de Porto, de cerises, de Frontignon, de Pajarete, de Malvoisie, de Muscat, de Pedro Jimenez, de Peralta et autres vins généreux, vin d'Asti ainsi que tous vins mousseux autres que le champagne, et vermouth	litre..	.30
Vins blancs ou rouges de Bordeaux, de Carlon, de Catalogne, de Priorato, de San Vincente et autres similaires	litre..	.25
Champagne	id....	.50

II. Extrait de la loi du 14 janvier 1899, modifiant le régime applicable à l'importation, à la consommation et à l'exportation du tabac, des cigares et des cigarettes:

ARTICLE PREMIER. Les droits d'importation, applicables au tabac de toute espèce, aux cigares et aux cigarettes importés de l'étranger sur le territoire de la République, seront spécifiques, ils seront perçus dans toutes les douanes conformément au tarif ci-après:

		Sols.
Tabacs des régions limitrophes, en feuilles, côtes, carottes ou paquets, kilogramme net		0.25
Tabacs de toute autre provenance, en feuilles, côtes, carottes ou paquets, kilogramme net		.50
Tabacs de toute provenance, y compris les régions limitrophes, à mâcher, à priser, coupé ou haché et en général le tabac manufacturé sous toute forme autre que les cigares ou les cigarettes	kilogramme net..	1.00
Cigares italiens	id....	4.00
Cigares de toute autre provenance	id....	7.00
Cigarettes de toute provenance, en boîtes ou paquets ne contenant pas plus de 24 cigarettes	mille paquets..	75.00

ART. 2. A l'avenir, il sera perçu dans toute la République et dans tous les points de consommation mêmes un impôt applicable à toutes espèces de tabacs, cigares et cigarettes dont le montant est fixé dans le tableau ci-après:

		Sols.
1°. Tabac de provenance nationale, en feuilles, côtes, carottes ou paquets ou sous toute autre forme	kilogramme net..	2.00
2°. Tabac de Mexique et du centre de l'Amérique	id....	2.20
3°. Tabac des régions limitrophes, en feuilles, côtes, carottes ou paquets	id....	2.10
4°. Tabac étranger de toute autre provenance, en feuilles, côtes, carottes ou paquets	kilogramme net..	3.20
5°. Tabac étranger, à mâcher ou à priser	id....	2.00
6°. Tabac étranger, coupé ou haché, en paquets, en cigarettes, etc	id....	3.00
7°. Cigares de tout provenance étrangère, en boîtes ou en vrac	id....	2.50

* * * * * * *

ART. 4. En cas d'exportation vers l'étranger de tabac de toute sorte, manufacturé dans le pays sous forme de cigares, cigarettes, tabac à priser, tabac coupé ou haché, la taxe de consommation sera restituée à l'exportateur comme ci-après, après qu'on aura vérifié le contenu des colis et constaté que l'exportation s'est réellement effectuée.

		Sols.
Tabac national ou étranger exporté après avoir été haché pour servir à la fabrication des cigarettes	kilogramme net..	1.00
Le même tabac complètement manufacturé en cigares ou cigarettes, en boîtes, paquets ou en vrac	kilogramme net..	2.00

Ce *drawback* ne sera pas accordé si les produits manufacturés ont été fabriqués à la machine.

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ART. 7. Sont abrogées toutes les lois, générales ou spéciales, contraires à la présente.

INSTITUTIONS DE CRÉDIT.

La legation française à Lima a récemment envoyé a son gouvernement à Paris, un rapport sur les "Institutions de Crédit" au Pérou. Ces institutions sont comme suit:

La Banco del Peru y Londres, au capital de 2,000,000 de soles, divisé en actions de 150 soles, a été formée par la fusion, au 1er juillet 1897, de la Banco du Callao avec la succursale à Lima de la London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited.

Elle possède des succursales à Callao, Arequipa, Trujillo, Piura, Chiclayo, et Ica. Sa section hypothécaire est constituée sur un capital de 40,000 livres sterling.

La Banque Italienne (Banco Italiano), fondée en 1889, a un capital de 750,000 soles divisé en actions nominales de 20 livres. Elle a une succursale au Callao.

La Banque Internationale (Banco International), dont l'établissement remonte à peine à une quinzaine de mois, est au capital de 2,000,000 de soles divisé en actions de 100 soles nominales.

À la suite de ces trois banques on peut encore citer diverses sociétés financières, telles que:

L'acumulativa, au capital de 250,000 soles, divisé en actions de 100 soles nominales qui procède au tirage mensuel de certificats d'une valeur de 500 soles.

La Sociedad Recaudadora de Impuestos, creée par décret du 9 janvier 1896, qui a pour objet la perception pour le compte de l'Etat des impôts sur les alcools, tabacs, opium, timbres fiscaux, etc.

LOI MONÉTAIRE.

Par rapport à la loi monétaire on dit:

Le décret du 9 avril 1897 et celui du 24 juin 1897 suspendant la frappe de la monnaie d'argent et prescrivant le paiement de droits de douane en livres sterling, à raison d'une livre par dix soles, en attendant l'émission d'une monnaie nationale, émission qui a eu lieu à la suite de la promulgation de la nouvelle loi monétaire du 18 décembre 1897, a eu pour but principal et pour résultat d'établir la stabilité du change, à raison de 24 pence pour un sol.

La nouvelle monnaie nationale frappée à la Monnaie de Lima et qui porte le nom de livre péruvienne consiste en un disque de 22 millimètres de diamètre au titre de neuf cent seize millièmes et deux tiers (916.67), du poids de sept grammes neuf cent quatre vingt-huit milligrammes. Elle porte, sur la face, le buste du fondateur de l'Empire des Incas avec le légende "Vérité et Justice" à la partie supérieure, et l'inscription "une livre" dans la partie inférieure. Au revers se détache l'écusson national, sans trophées, couronné par un soliel levant et rayonnant, une palme et un laurier avec la devise République Péruvienne.

Jusqu'à ce jour la frappe des livres péruviennes á la Monnaie de Lima a atteint le chiffre de 34,000 livres.

La nouvelle pièce d'or péruvienne se négocie couramment dans les maisons de change entre dix soles et 25 centavos.

DÉCOUVERTES RÉCENTES DE MINERAI DE CUIVRE.

Un correspondant du "Engineering and Mining Journal" envoie le rapport suivant, publié par le journal dans son numéro du 3 juin 1899, page 663:

J'ai trouvé dernièrement un bon filon de minerai de cuivre dans l'Isla de Santa, à 4 milles au nord de Chimbote. J'expédie de la mine, par chaloupes, du minerai renfermant 25 pour cent de cuivre et 1 once d'or par tonne. Ce minerai, franco à bord du vapeur, coûte $1 par tonne, et les dépenses de l'extraction sont de $15 par tonne. J'ai aussi trouvé sur le continent plusieurs veines renfermant une certaine quantité de cuivre, ainsi qu'une quantité d'or variant de ¼ à 3 onces par tonne. Des échantillons de minerai oxychloride donnent 46 pour cent de cuivre.

M. Dufourge, représentant un syndicat de New-York, organisé par Mr. N. L. Selleck, est ici pour examiner plusieurs propriétés. Le syndicat s'intéresse aussi aux charbons. On trouve beaucoup de charbon sur la rivière Santa, à 105 milles de Chimbote, ce qui peut amener le prolongement du chemin de fer de Chimbote, car ce dernier endroit est le meilleur port de la côte. Le prolongement de cette route ouvrirait non seulement les gisements houilliers, mais aussi les placers aurifères et les mines de Palcasu et de Pataz, ainsi que les mines de cuivre, d'or et d'autres minerais de tout le Département d'Ancachs. Parmi les personnes qui accompagnent M. Dufourge, on remarque un ingénieur civil, le Major Alfred Sears, et on compte que le travail commencera aussitôt qu'on aura examiné les propriétés.

ETATS-UNIS.

CONDITIONS DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES.

Les rapports préliminaires, reçus au Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, indiquent une augmentation d'environ 5 pour cent dans la superficie ensemencée de maïs sur celle de 1898. Sur les vingt-et-un Etats ayant 100,000 acres ou plus en culture, tous, à l'exception de trois, accusent une augmentation, et la diminution qui a eu lieu dans ces trois Etats est très petite. La condition moyenne accuse 86.5 pour cent contre: 1°, 90.5 le 1er juillet 1898; 2°, 82.9 le 1er juillet 1897, et 3°, 91.1, moyenne des récoltes pour le mois de juillet pendant les dix dernières années. Voici la condition des récoltes dans les principaux Etats: Ohio et Missouri, 85; Indiana, 90; Illinois, 86; Iowa, 81; Kansas, 92 et Nebraska, 93.

Quant aux blés, la condition des blés d'hiver accuse encore une diminution, étant de 65.6 le 1er juillet 1899, contre 86.7 pour l'année 1898, et de 81.2 pour l'année 1897, soit une moyenne de 82.4 pour le mois de juillet pendant les dix dernières années. La condition moyenne des blés de printemps est de 91.7 contre 91.4 le 1er juin 1899, 95 le 1er juillet 1898, 91.2 pour le même mois 1897, et 88.7, moyenne pour le moi de juillet pendant dix ans.

La condition moyenne du seigle d'hiver accuse 83.3 contre 93.8 le 1er juillet 1898; 95 le 1er juillet 1897, et 90.5, moyenne du mois de juillet pendant dix ans. Quant au seigle de printemps, la condition moyenne accuse 89.7 contre 96.9 le 1er juillet 1898; 90 le 1er juillet 1897, et 90.6, moyenne pendant dix ans.

La condition moyenne de la récolte d'avoine est de 90 contre 88.7 le 1er juin 1899; 92.8 le 1er juillet 1898, et 87.7, moyenne pendant 10 ans. La condition moyenne de l'orge accuse 92 contre 85.7 le 1er juillet 1898, et 88.3, moyenne pendant dix ans. On constate une augmentation de un pour cent dans la superficie d'acres de pommes de terre, et la condition de la récolte est satisfaisante. Les rapports sur la laine indiquent un poids moyen par toison de 5.98 livres, soit une augmentation de 0.15 de livre sur l'année dernière. Le rapport sur le coton accuse une condition moyenne de 87.8, pour contre 91.2 1er juillet 1898, et 88, moyenne pour dix ans.

D'après le "New York Journal of Commerce," le commerce d'exportation des Etats-Unis, pendant les deux semaines finissant le 8 juillet, accuse un mouvement énorme dans les récoltes; les récoltes totales étant: blé, 2,864,000 boisseaux; maïs, 5,096,000 boisseaux; seigle, 117,000 boisseaux, et avoine, 825,000 boisseaux. Le gain qui a eu lieu en juin dans la quantité de blé emmagasiné en Amérique a surpassé tous les précédents. La quantité aux Etats-Unis et au Canada, le 1er

juillet, s'est élevée à presque 50,000,000 de boisseaux, soit un accroissement de plus de 4,000,000 de boisseaux pendant le mois de juin contre une diminution en juin de plus de 11,000,000 de boisseaux. La quantité de blé en magasin en Europe a diminué d'environ 2,500,000 boisseaux pendant le mois. La quantité totale des céréales aux Etats-Unis, Canada, Europe, Australie et aux principaux ports de la République Argentine, s'est élevée à 133,501,000 boisseaux, soit une augmentation de 1,000,000 de boisseaux depuis le 1er juin, contre une diminution dans la production du monde entier en juin 1898 de 19,000,000 de boisseaux.

La production totale des céréales en Amérique est actuellement plus du double de ce qu'elle était il y a un an, tandis que celle de l'Europe a 10,000,000 de boisseaux de plus, et la production du monde entier a 48,000,000 de boisseaux de plus qu'au 1er juillet 1898. Les exportations de blé provenant de tous les pays à destination de l'Europe depuis le 1er août 1898 jusqu'au 24 juin 1899, se sont élevées à 342,840,000 boisseaux, soit une diminution de 54,600,000 boisseaux sur l'année précédente.

TRAITÉ DE RÉCIPROCITÉ AVEC LA BARBADE.

On a signé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, le 16 juin 1899, un traité de réciprocité entre les Etats-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne au sujet du commerce entre les Etats-Unis et la colonie britannique de la Barbade. Le traité qu'on vient de signer est le premier qui ait été fait aux termes de l'article 4 du tarif douanier du 24 juillet 1897, dit de DINGLEY. Il est aussi le premier d'une série de traités que les colonies britanniques au sud des Etats-Unis désirent conclure. Ledit traité sera en vigueur pendant cinq ans, mais comme il doit être soumis à l'examen et à l'approbation du Sénat, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères ne peut pas en publier les conditions maintenant.

L'article 4 du traité accorde une réduction "jusqu'à concurrence de 20 pour cent sur les droits établis dans le présent acte et applicables à l'importation des marchandises spécifiées dans les traités conclus en vertu du présent article. Le Président pourra également, pendant la même période, transférer du tableau soumis aux droits au tableau des articles admis en franchise les produits, denrées et marchandises de production naturelle de ces pays étrangers et non des Etats-Unis."

Le principal produit de la Barbade est le sucre, dont le commerce en 1898 a atteint le chiffre de $2,208,000. Les céréales forment la plus grande partie des exportations faites dans cette île par les Etats-Unis. Jusqu'ici presque tous les articles fabriqués ont été de provenace anglaise. Autrefois les consuls des Etats-Unis à la Barbade ont attiré l'attention sur les demandes faites par cette contrée pour les beurres, conserves, voitures, bicyclettes, équipements électriques et ciment.

Le Consul MACALLISTER dit, dans les Relations Commerciales des Etats-Unis pour 1898, page 108, que les importations de Bridgetown en

1897, ont été de $5,043,495 contre $5,244,435 en 1896. Les importations provenant des Etats-Unis pour cette année accusent une diminution de $175,886. En 1897, la valeur des comestibles venant des Etats-Unis se montait à $1,253,895 contre $483,755 de provenance anglaise. D'un autre côté, les articles fabriqués fournis par l'Angleterre se sont élevés à $658,785, tandis que ceux provenant des Etats-Unis ne se sont élevés qu'à $116,600.

Les exportations pour 1897, d'après la même source, ont dépassé celles de 1896 de $90,674, soit un total général de $3,680,000. La quantité totale du sucre exporté en 1897 s'est élevée à 67,609 tonneaux. Les expéditions de manioc, espèce de plante ressemblant au yucca du Vénézuéla, se sont élevées à $18,800. Sur cette quantité les Etats-Unis en ont reçu pour $12,967.

PRODUCTION GÉNÉRALE DU PÉTROLE.

D'après les statistiques publiées dernièrement par le Bureau de Statistique du Ministère des Finances des Etats-Unis, la production annuelle du pétrole dans le monde entier dépasse 5,000,000,000 de gallons et sur cette quantité les Etats-Unis ont produit 2,500,000,000 de gallons, la Russie, 2,250,000,000 et la différence provient des autres pays, dont les noms suivant: l'Autriche, les îles de Sumatra et de Java, le Canada, la Roumanie, l'Inde, le Japon, l'Allemagne, le Pérou et l'Italie. Bien que la production du pétrole brut soit presque égale dans les Etats-Unis et la Russie, la quantité d'huile raffinée d'éclairage que le premier pays produit est presque le double de la quantité produite par la Russie. La raison en est que les Etats-Unis raffinent les trois-quarts de tout le pétrole qu'ils produisent, tandis que la Russie raffine seulement les trois-huitièmes de sa production totale. Après la Russie, le Sumatra fait la plus grande concurrence aux Etats-Unis, parce que la moitié du volume du pétrole brut produit dans cette île, donne de l'huile raffinée et aussi parce qu'elle se trouve plus près des nations orientales où sont les principaux débouchés de ce produit. Jusqu'ici toutefois, la quantité de l'huile pétrole produite dans l'île est petite en comparaison de la quantité expédiée par les Etats-Unis et la Russie, car en 1897 cette île n'a produit que 72,258,000 gallons. L'Angleterre est la nation qui consomme le plus de pétrole américain; pendant l'année fiscale écoulée on en a exporté dans ce pays 212,265,563 gallons. La quantité d'huile raffinée d'éclairage exportée des Etats-Unis en 1898, s'est élevée à 900,998,875 gallons, tandis que la Russie n'a exporté qu'environ un tiers de cette quantité.

Le "Nouveau Monde," publié à Paris, dit dans son numéro du 17 juin, 1899, qu'on a découvert près de Puebla, Mexique, des gisements considérables de pétrole et qu'une compagnie mexicaine est en train de s'organiser pour leur exploitation.

PRODUCTION DE PLOMB.

Le "Engineering and Mining Journal" de New York a publié les chiffres révisés de la production de plomb aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1898.

D'après ces chiffres, le rendement total pour l'année a été de 238,000 tonnes, une augmentation d'environ 29,000 tonnes sur celui de l'année 1897. L'État de Colorado a contribué la plus grande partie de cette augmentation, sa production totale étant de 56,700 tonnes, soit une augmentation de 16,000 tonnes. L'Idaho, qui le suit avec un rendement total de 56,300 tonnes, montre une légère diminution d'environ 1,400 tonnes sur sa production de l'année précedente. D'un autre coté le Utah, dont les forges ont produit 45,000 tonnes de plomb, montre une augmentation de 6,400 tonnes, tandis que dans le sud-est du Missouri, où le rendement a été de 35,000 tonnes, il n'y avait qu'une augmentation de 1,500 tonnes. Il est aussi à remarquer que tandis que le plomb fondu des minerais domestiques a augmenté de beaucoup, le produit obtenu des minerais étrangers qui a ajouté 89,000 tonnes au total, montre une diminution de 2,900 tonnes pour l'année.

TRAITÉ DE RÉCIPROCITÉ AVEC LA JAMAÏQUE.

On vient de conclure au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, le 1er juillet, 1899, un traité de réciprocité entre la Grande Bretagne et les Etats-Unis, pour l'île de la Jamaïque. Monsieur J. A. KASSON, nommé Commissaire Plénipotentiaire en mission spéciale sous l'acte du Tarif des Etats-Unis, a representé dans les négotiations les Etats-Unis et Mons. REGINALD TOWER, le Chargé d'Affaires britannique, la Grande Bretagne. On a transmis ce traité à Kingston pour l'approbation des autorités coloniales et quand elles l'auront accordée, la signature formelle de cet acte aura lieu. Les détails ne seront publiés qu'après la ratification du traité par le Congrès des Etats-Unis.

FONTE DE L'ACIER DANS LE VIDE.

Le "Scientific American" dans son numéro du 24 juin, dit qu'une compagnie vient d'être formée au capital de $150,000 pour décider si l'acier peut ou non être fondu dans le vide au moyen de la liquéfaction de l'hydrogène. Si le plan réussit on espère pouvoir faire disparaître les bulles d'air qui causent maintenant des imperfections et affaiblissent les fontes, obtenant ainsi l'homogénité dans les pièces fondues. Il paraît donc, que le succès du Professeur DEWAR, dans la liquéfaction de l'hydrogène, commence à porter ses fruits.

REVUE DE LIVRES.

"The Chautauquan" du mois de juin, pages 249–256, publie un article très intéressant contenant de nombreuses illustrations et intitulé "La Ville de Buenos Ayres." Cet article est écrit par Mr. WILLIAM ELROY CURTIS, qui a été le premier Directeur du Bureau des Républiques Américaines. Par suite de ses nombreux voyages dans l'Amérique du Sud et des minutieuses observations qu'il y a faites, les articles de M. CURTIS contiennent des renseignements très intéressants et des statistiques très authentiques.

M. ROBERT P. PORTER, qui était dernièrement Commissaire Spécial des Etats-Unis à Cuba et à Porto Rico, a fait une étude soignée des conditions commerciales et industrielles dans l'île de Cuba, ayant spécialement en vue les occasions qui s'y présentent pour les capitaux, l'entreprise et le travail américains. M. PORTER a condensé les resultats de ses recherches dans un volume de 428 pages, publié par G. P. Putnam & Fils, New York, intitulé "Cuba Industriel."

Cet ouvrage renferme les renseignements les plus récents et les plus précis grâce aux facilités dont disposait l'auteur.

"L'Académie Américaine des Sciences Politiques et Sociales" (Philadelphie) vient de publier les discours de THÉODORE S. WOOLSEY, E. W. HUFFCUT, A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, W. ALLEYNE IRELAND, CARL SCHURZ, W. C. FORD, ROBERT T. HILL, JOHN BASSETT MOORE, Son Excellence WU TING FANG et d'autres, prononcés à l'occasion de la réunion annuelle de l'Académie le 7–8 avril, avec le compte-rendu des discussions qui ont suivi chaque discours. Ces discours forment un volume de 216 pages et constituent une présentation importante pour et contre la politique d'expansion nationale.

La collection des Guides Baedeker, si justement appréciée du public, vient de s'enrichir d'un nouveau volume, digne en tous points de ses prédécesseurs. Ce volume est écrit par Mr. J. F. MUIRHEAD, qui vient d'en écrire encore un autre, intitulé "The Land of Contrasts" (La Terre des Contrastes), volume très intéressant et qui, du point de vue du lecteur américain, donne une excellente description de la vie et des usages aux Etats-Unis.

Ce guide, ainsi que tous les autres de cette série, commence par une introduction composée d'études sur différents sujets intéressants sur les Etats-Unis et sont toutes par des personnes d'autorité reconnue. Nous ne pouvons mentionner ici que celles qui ont pour titres: "Short History of the American Policy," (Courte Histoire de la Politique

Américaine, par le Professeur JOHN BACH MCMASTER;) "Constitution and Government of the United States," (Constitution et Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, par l'Honorable JAMES BRYCE, l'auteur du "American Commonwealth,") et enfin celle écrite par le Professeur N. S. SHALER, de l'Université de Harvard, sur la "Physiography of North America" (Physiographie de l'Amérique du Nord).

Le livre n'est pas seulement un guide pour le voyageur dans les Etats-Unis et le Territoire d'Alaska, mais contient aussi un itinéraire détaillé d'un voyage à la ville de Mexico et à la Véra-Cruz.

Les dix-neuf cartes et vingt-quatre plans de différentes villes des Etats-Unis accompagnant ce volume ont été préparés avec le soin qui distingue les guides de Baedeker et sous la surveillance de Mr. HENRY GANNETT du Geological Survey des Etats-Unis.

L'exemplaire supplémentaire (127) des "Mitteilungen" du Docteur A. PETERMANN (Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt, Gotha, 1899) contient un traité sur les formations montagneuses et sur le sol du nord de l'Amérique Centrale. Cet article, écrit par le Docteur CARL SAPPER, est le résultat de ses recherches faites pendant les années 1888–1897. Ce travail fait suite aux ouvrages écrits précédemment par le même auteur, qui sont les suivants: "Géographie Physique du Guatémala" (PETERMANN'S "Mitteilungen," Supplément No. 113, 1893); "Géographie Physique de Chiapas, Tabasco et Yucatan" (Boletín No. 3 del Instituto Geológico de México, 1895), et en plus un rapport au Gouvernement du Honduras Anglais (1896), encore inédit. Dans le volume en question, les ouvrages mentionnés ci-dessus sont réunis pour former un volume complet auquel sont ajoutés les résultats d'un voyage à travers le Salvador et la partie ouest du Honduras, depuis la limite occidentale des Etats mexicains de Chiapas et Tabasco jusqu'aux frontières de l'Amérique Centrale, entre Puerto Cortez et la baie de Fonseca. L'auteur dit qu'il a borné ses efforts principalement à la géologie, à l'orographie, à l'hydrographie et à l'étude du sol des différents districts, ayant publié précédemment la carte des plus importantes régions pluvieuses du nord de l'Amérique Centrale dans "Das nördliche Mittelamerika" (Brunswick, 1897) et dans PETERMANN'S "Mitteilungen" (1897, vol. 6).

Le present ouvrage est une acquisition sérieuse pour la littérature scientifique, car le Docteur SAPPER donne un résumé soigné des conditions existantes, ainsi qu'une revue de l'état actuel de nos connaissances, auquel il a ajouté ses propres recherches. Bien que le Docteur SAPPER ait écrit d'abord pour l'homme de science et que ses lecteurs se trouveront principalement parmi des collègues intéressés dans le même genre de recherche, le public qui a besoin de renseignements sur les pays dont cet ouvrage traite y trouvera beaucoup de choses intéressantes.

Le volume contient les cartes suivantes:

I. Carte originelle du nord de l'Amérique Centrale. Echelle, 1:1,100,000.

II. Carte géologique du nord de l'Amérique Centrale. Echelle, 1:1,100,000.

III. Esquisse d'une carte de la surface du nord de l'Amérique Centrale. Echelle, 1:3,000,000.

IV et V. Profil géologique du Yucatan, du Chiapas, du Tabasco, du Guatémala, etc. Echelle de longueurs, 1:250,000; échelle de hauteurs, 1:100,000. No. 1, Profil du Yucatan (1:800,000 et 1:40,000). Nos. 2–9, Profil de Chiapas et Tabasco. No. 9ª, Profil du Honduras Anglais. Nos. 10–23, Profil du Guatémala. Nos. 24 et 25, Profil du Honduras.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. AUGUST, 1899. No. 2.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1899.

Under date of May 6, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, transmitted to the Department of State at Washington a report showing the development of the trade of the United States with that country in the first three months of the present calendar year.

This statement shows that there was an increase in the imports from the United States and a decrease in the exports to the United States from the Argentine Republic. A table is also incorporated with the report giving the increase or decrease in the imports or exports of the Argentine Republic for the period named as compared with the same period in 1898. From this it is seen that the increase in the import trade is almost wholly divided between the United States and England, that of all other countries remaining practically stationary. The great increase in exports was to France, Germany, and Belgium; to the United States there was a decrease of exports of $158,311, and to Great Britain of $1,940,032. Notwithstanding the great falling off to the latter country, the Minister says the Argentine press has used the figures showing the decreased purchases by the United States as an argument in support of the contention that the wool tariff of the United States operates injuriously against the wool of the Argentine Republic. The decrease in products taken by Chile and Italy—the most notable of the other countries showing a loss of exports—are, respectively, $508,061 and $269,597. The total value of exports was $47,532,893 in the first quarter of 1899 against $43,970,805 in

the same period of 1898, or an increase of $3,562,088. The increase in the value of exports has been wholly confined to wool, the price of which during the latter part of the season, the Minister says, has been remarkably good and the wools of the finest quality. The value of the exports of cereals, though much greater in quantity, has decreased. The Minister gives a table showing the shipments of wool from the Argentine Republic from October 1, 1898, to May 1, 1899, which gives a grand total of 396,738 bales. This is a decrease from the previous season, when the shipments were 415,109 bales. During the first-named period 6,262 bales of wool were sent to the United States against 10,995 in the previous year. While there was a decrease in the number of bales of wool, the value for the season ending May 1, 1899, exceeded the previous season by $4,572,430. Some fine wool sold at Buenos Ayres recently for a higher price than at any previous time during the past fifteen years.

The Minister says that it may not be out of place to mention that, from a somewhat superficial study of the subject, he is of the belief that certain lines of Argentine manufactures are materially benefited and have had a decided impetus given them by the national exposition of Argentine products, which was kept open in Buenos Ayres and very largely attended during the last three months of 1898. The exhibit was a revelation, and "without doubt did much to stimulate the then waning interest in efforts put forth constantly by Argentine industries toward keeping the custom-house tariff on imported goods as high as possible."

On May 9, 1899, DANIEL MAYER, United States Consul at Buenos Ayres, forwarded to Washington a report on the import trade in the Argentine Republic, containing the following figures, showing the total imports, by countries, for the first quarter of 1899 as compared with the same period in 1898, the values being stated in Argentine gold currency, a dollar being equal to 96.5 cents in United States money.

Country.	1899.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
Great Britain	11,383,548	9,596,771	1,786,777	
Italy	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	
Germany	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	
United States	3,513,086	1,896,327	1,616,759	
France	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	
Belgium	2,507,327	2,561,985		54,658
Brazil	1,040,970	1,173,924		132,954
Spain	645,742	915,567		269,825
Paraguay	292,607	345,705		53,098
Uruguay	129,607	119,892	9,715	
Holland	27,356	18,445	8,911	
Portugal	23,733	21,348	2,385	
Chile	19,082	7,341	11,741	
Bolivia	7,556	6,457	1,099	
West Indies	4,275	7,000		2,725
Other countries	14,598	28,207		13,609
Total	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	

Minister BUCHANAN comments on what he considers the most interesting phase of the manufacturing question—the effect of the rapid

rise in the value of paper money of the country on the tariff. He says "manufacturers and producers here are invariably found to be opposed to any plan looking toward an increase in value of the paper money of the country. Such persons desire 'high gold'—i. e., cheap paper money. In the case of the manufacturer, 'low gold,' or appreciation in the purchasing power of paper, is equivalent to a reduction in the duty on imported goods, and his trade is injured, since, under such a condition, he finds it more difficult to compete with an imported article than he does when the gold rate is 'high.' * * * I am quite certain on this point that the increased importation shown above in many lines would have been very much greater had this Government not maintained in force during this year the additional 10 per cent provisional custom-house tax imposed last September as a war measure."

The Minister gives an illustration of the practical operation on imported goods of the rise in the value of paper money, and shows, at the same time, why the Argentine manufacturers desire cheap money. The report can be found in full in the United States Consular Reports for July 10, 1899.

TRADE AND TONNAGE WITH NEW YORK.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Señor Don Carlos Rohl, Consul-General of the Argentine Republic, for a very full and detailed report on the trade and tonnage between the United States and the Argentine during the first half year of 1899. Space forbids publishing the tables in full, but parties desiring further information in this regard will be gladly furnished the same upon application.

According to the statistics mentioned, the shipments from the ports of Boston, Portland, Pensacola, Pascagoula, Mobile, Apalachicola, Norfolk, Brunswick, Savannah, and the Puget Sound to Buenos Ayres, Rosario, La Plata, Bahia Blanca, and Puerto Belgrano, consisting principally of lumber and coal, during the first half year of 1899, amounted in value to $2,118,650. The imports from the Argentine for the same period, consisting in greater part of hides, goat and other skins, wool, cacao, furs, and feathers, and entered at the ports of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, were valued at $2,940,159.

The exports from the port of New York to Buenos Ayres, Rosairo, and Bahia Blanca amounted in value to $4,247,617. The articles coming to the fore in the "quantity" and "value" columns were: Agricultural machinery and implements, 1,628,847 pounds, $84,471; alfalfa seed, 93,905 pounds, $7,738; American carriages, 1,843, $87,387; barbed wire, 5,056,332 pounds, $109,460; bicycles, 9,642, $136,435; bicyle supplies, 31,318 pounds, $20,058; electrical machinery, 724,502 pounds, $151,643; hardware, 2,089,394 pounds, $148,534; harvesting machinery, 5,596 machines, $234,132; iron and iron pipes, 4,157,556 pounds, $79,320; machinery, 745,781 pounds, $92,457; medicines, 235,498 pounds, $49,604; mowers, 385, $18,655; petroleum, 4,231,715 gallons, $417,439; pipe and

fittings, 1,093,311 pounds, $52,956; plows, 12,723, $210,654; railroad materials, 5,135,571 pounds, $131,404; refrigerators and parts, 522,185 pounds, $27,428; rope, 1,720,711 pounds, $119,864; seeders, 935, $25,293; sewing machines, 4,030, $73,427; sheep wash, 987,132 pounds, $36,123; shooks, barrel, 28,500, $47,779; sisal rope, 3,351,017 pounds, $27,147; tobacco, 309,594 pounds, $56,074; turpentine, 64,468 gallons, $30,959; twine, 216,355 pounds, 26,430; white pine, 5,194,255 feet, $135,834; windmills and parts, 1,600,358 pounds, $72,895; wire, 13,220,633 pounds, $234,844.

The tonnage statistics show that during the first half year of 1899 there arrived at New York from the Argentine Republic 6 steamers and 11 sailing vessels, tonnage, 18,699 tons; at Philadelphia, 1 steamer and 8 sailing vessels, 6,758 tons; at Boston, 11 sailing vessels, 7,199 tons; total, 37 vessels, 321,856 tons. The clearances from United States ports for the Argentine Republic were 122 vessels, 94 sailing and 44 steam, of an aggregate tonnage of 126,445 tons.

DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The French Consul at Cordoba, in a recent report to his Government, speaks of the demand for agricultural machinery in the Argentine Republic. He says that the rapid development of the cultivation of cereals and lucern (alfalfa) renders this Republic an important market for agricultural machinery of all kinds. He adds that the present machines must be replaced by others in a short time, "owing to the inexperience of those to whom their management (operation) is intrusted. The thrashing machines in use in the Province of Entre Rios are in such a state of deterioration that they are a source of danger to those using them, and even cause the farmers to run the risk of losing their crops for want of machines. Our manufacturers, therefore, can not pay too much attention to a market the demands of which are increasing so rapidly. This market is doubtless almost monopolized by the United States and Great Britain, but if we were to follow their example and open depots at Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and even Cordoba we could easily compete with them. It must also not be forgotten that the cheapest machines can be disposed of most easily. Country landowners here are speculators rather than veritable farmers, and attach but little importance to finish and durability of the machinery they employ."

As regards the Province of Cordoba, the Consul says the number of imported machines of all kinds in use in the several agricultural colonies was 19,909 (including wagons and carts) in 1892. Since then (until 1898) this total has been increased by 57,497, divided as follows: 39,474 plows, 11,805 wagons, 11,192 harrows, 4,375 rollers or clod crushers, 2,725 carts, 1,692 seed drills, 852 corncob cutters, 686 mowers and binders, 320 steam thrashers, and 285 power cornshellers. This does not

include 180 steam thrashers which travel through the country, immediately following the harvest, thrashing the crops of small farmers.

The machines most generally employed in this province are: United States plows, with one share, Nos. 1½, 2½, and 8½, selling for 4.50, 5, and 6.50 piastres (prices are all quoted in gold); the "Virginia" corn sheller from the United States, selling for 28 piastres; the "Clinton" hand-shellers, selling at 6 piastres; scythes (from France) worth 6 piastres per dozen; United States shovels at 6.70, and English shovels at 5 piastres per dozen; the "Colorado" and "Collins" brands of hoes from the United States bringing respectively 2.70 and 14 piastres per dozen; the French "Pengeot" brand at 3.50 piastres per dozen; the "Albion" (English) reapers, Nos. 5 and 7, bringing 70 and 80 piastres, and the "Osborn" and "Eureka" machines from the United States, which sell for 70 and 110 piastres respectively. Thrashers and seed drills have little sale in Cordoba, as the southern and provincial farmers purchase them in Buenos Ayres. The crisis affecting the sugar industry at this time has caused a considerable fall in the imports of machinery for sugar plants. At least one-fifth of the trade is in the hands of the French, and most of the Tucumán sugar mills have been fitted up by French firms. Sales of machinery are made either on a basis of 5 months, or for cash at 5 per cent. discount.

The Belgian Consul at Entre-Rios, in a recently published report regarding farm implements in that part of the Argentine Republic, says that "among the simple plows used here in breaking the virgin soil I may mention the 'Collins' brand as one of the most appreciated. 'Howard,' 'Avery,' and 'Osborn' plows are also largely used. Double and triple share plows are supplied by 'Collins,' 'Avery,' 'Sims,' and 'Jeffries,' and 'Howard.' Harvesters are of different types. Among he most popular are 'McCormick,' 'Buckeye,' 'Walter A. Wood,' 'Deering,' 'Osborne' (United States), 'Hornsby,' and 'Reliance.'"

Speaking of plows, the Belgian Consul at Buenos Ayres says: "For some years past the use of the simple 'sulky' plow has developed greatly. It is a very powerful implement, and its method of construction and powers of resistance enable it to do excellent work on land covered with straw and weeds. Its price, however, is somewhat high, being from 60 to 70 piastres gold."

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK.

The British consul at Buenos Ayres, in his report for the year 1898 (Annual Series, No. 2219), observes that the year was a good average one for the agriculture of the Republic, and good prices were received for wheat. He adds that a splendid crop of wheat for the year 1898–99 had been harvested, and though it was very difficult to accurately forecast the shipments, yet at the time of writing (March, 1899) it was thought that a surplus of 1,500,000 tons might be safely estimated as available for export for 1899, after allowing for home consumption.

On June 1, 1899, the National Board of Agriculture issued a statistical report of the last wheat crop, from which it appears that up to the end of May the thrashing returns showed an output of 1,834,067 tons. It was also stated that allowance must be made for the wheat not yet thrashed and for incomplete reports, which would easily increase the crop to over 2,000,000 tons. Unsettled weather up to June 1 prevented the thrashing of a great number of crops, and private advices would indicate that 2,000,000 tons was not an overestimate. The published report gives the following figures:

	Areas, in hectares.	Yield, in tons.	Average, in kilos.
Buenos Ayres	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fe	981,013	763,655	778
Cordoba	366,698	340,711	929
Entre Rios	142,962	117,608	893
Total	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

By a decree of May 8, 1899, a service for the inspection of wheat and corn was organized by the Argentine Government in the ports of Buenos Ayres, La Plata, Bahia Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas, and Villa Constitution. This service was established with a view to certifying that the grain fulfills the necessary conditions for transportation and exportation to foreign markets. The inspection will not be obligatory and will only take place when the owners or consignees so request, and upon payment at the rate of 10 centavos per 1,000 kilograms. The preamble of the decree indicates that its object is to regulate transactions and to prevent, as much as possible, the restrictive measures which might hinder the exporting of grains to foreign markets, and lastly to stimulate the production of first-class grains in Argentina. It is also intended that the inspections, for the time being limited to wheat and corn, have for their principal object the official certification that these products are healthy, dry, and clean.

The report of the British Consul above referred to states, in commenting on the rapid strides which have been and are being made in the improvement of stock raising in the Argentine Republic, that the stock breeders in Great Britain would do well to keep up the quality of the animals they export to that country, as fine animals are being raised on many of the farms, in some cases as good as the imported stock. It is added that for some time the Argentine Republic will be a good market for breeders of fine cattle and sheep, especially the latter; and great care should therefore be taken in securing really fine animals of English breed, if they wish to maintain their standard in the market.

Messrs. GIBSON BROS., of Buenos Ayres, in a circular dated June 1, estimate the River Plate exportation of wool for last season at 555,000 bales. This firm says that it looks forward confidently to sustained interest and firm prices for fine wools and fine crosses in the coming season, due to the falling off in the production of these classes of wool

in the Argentine Republic, from evolution toward the coarse grades, and a great shrinkage in the Australian output owing to the mortality in the flocks.

Naturally, the United States being a country producing and exporting cereals, no such products have been received from the River Plate countries, but of the products that are considered as agricultural the value of the declared exports to the United States from the ports of the Argentine Republic during the first quarter of the year 1899 include the following items: From Buenos Ayres, wool, $201,935.91; dry hides, $667,676.46; jerked beef (to Havana, Cuba), $59,329.05; skins, goat, $47,894.03; nutria, $25,205.06; calf, $10,789.03; sheep, $4,247.30; carpincho, $2,100; stag, $1,245.75; kid, $933.66; hair, $20,264.18; bones, $17,517.35; other animal products, $27,412.98; ostrich feathers, $2,288.76.

From Rosario, dry hides, $326,549.89; wool, $108,742.25; goatskins, $199,030.81; other skins, $22,744.38; hair, $21,769.55; other animal products, $711.53; feathers, $550.53. Total for both ports, $1,768,938.46.

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

During the first six months of 1899, as shown by the Board of Trade returns published in July by the British Government, the value of the goods received from the Argentine Republic was, reduced to United States currency, $23,239,003.86, against $19,848,382.81 received in the first half of the year 1898. During the same period in each of the years named the total value of the goods shipped from British ports to the Argentine Republic was respectively $7,187,071.87 and $6,532,262.61.

The receipts from the Argentine Republic were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Live cattle.....head..	62,152	54,538
Sheep and lambs.....do....	278,506	269,548
Wheat.....bushels..	9,691,000	5,973,000
Indian corn and meal.....pounds..	93,035,000	44,947,000
Mutton (frozen wethers).....do....	54,657,700	54,520,400
Wet hides (including Uruguay).....do....	1,213,500	1,267,800
Tallow and stearine.....do....	53,786,400	48,777,000
Flaxseed or linseed.....quarters..	258,552	226,318

The values of these articles for each of the two periods were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Cattle	$4,890,544.10	$3,989,205.19
Sheep and lambs	2,124,816.76	1,952,268.40
Wheat	9,061,465.20	7,837,656.47
Indian corn, etc	975,594.07	433,803.90
Mutton	3,593,560.46	3,264,166.33
Wet hides	170,782.00	163,339.89
Tallow, etc	353,534.36	345,826.62
Flaxseed	2,068,706.91	1,862,116.01
Total	23,239,003.86	19,848,382.81

The shipments to the Argentine Republic included the following items:

	1899.	1898.
Unbleached cotton goods	$346,366.75	$407,576.16
Bleached cotton goods	852,440.11	1,082,227.60
Printed cotton goods	889,349.09	595,457.02
Dyed cotton goods	621,650.96	403,454.66
Jute manufactures	1,040,185.36	337,350.05
Linen piece goods	104,365.66	106,198.93
Woolen tissues	287,439.49	291,721.57
Worsted tissues	666,720.12	453,107.32
Carpets	225,397.99	153,600.16
Iron and manufactures of	1,999,444.27	2,545,535.98
Cement and earthenware	153,712.07	156,033.16
Total	7,187,071.87	6,532,262.61

VITAL STATISTICS OF BUENOS AYRES.

The city of Buenos Ayres issues monthly a summary of the vital statistics of the municipality. The figures for the month of April, 1899, have just been received and make a significant showing. According to this, the capital of the Argentine Republic had at that time a population of 774,000. The foreign element appears to be constantly increasing in numerical strength as well as in influence. The births during April were 2,690 and the deaths 1,009. The mortality among children was very great; including still-born infants, there were 419 deaths under 5 years of age. Among adults, disease of the lungs was the most fatal cause of mortality, and 167 deaths are attributed to "epidemics and contagious diseases."

With regard to births, the "Buenos Ayres Standard" says that "out of a total of 2,690 births, no less than 1,444 were of foreign parentage and 331 of Argentine fathers and foreign mothers. The births from Argentine parents figure at 318, a small fraction of the whole. Another significant feature is that of the total deaths more than half were Argentines; thus both the death rate and the birth rate unite to eliminate the native element, and at this rate the population must show a marvelous change within the next generation."

In the "Monthly Bulletin of Municipal Statistics of the City of Buenos Ayres" for May, 1899, the population of that capital on the 31st of the month named is given as 776,325 inhabitants. The population according to the census of 1895 was 663,854, showing an increase of 112,471 in four years, or 28,115 per annum.

COLOSSAL SCHEME OF IMMIGRATION.

According to the declarations made to the "Diario," of Buenos Ayres, by Señor ENRICO MORENO, the Minister from the Argentine Republic to Italy, a colossal scheme of immigration from the latter to the former country is about to be inaugurated. It is to be executed under the initiative and the management of Prince BALDASSARE ODE-

SCALCHI and Gen. RICCIOTTI GARIBALDI, a native of Montevideo, Uruguay. The "Progreso Italo-Americano," of New York, says "the movement will be advantageous to the Argentine Republic as well as to thousands of poor peasants in Italy, and that certainly money will not be lacking if Prince ODESCALCHI is to carry it through." The Prince and General GARIBALDI are reported to have arrived in the Republic and to be negotiating with the Government at Buenos Ayres and discussing conditions relative to the transportation of Italian peasants, chosen from those who have spent all their lives in the cultivation of the soil. To those not possessing ready money the colonization company will furnish all that is necessary to their settlement in the country. The families emigrating to the Argentine Republic are to receive land at a cheap price, to be paid for in easy and long-time payments.

The Governor of the Misiones Territory has lately been in communication with the Minister of the Interior of the Argentine Republic, pointing out the urgent necessity of doing something for the immediate colonization of that fertile part of the Republic. He calls attention to the fact that there are 44 square leagues, or 110,000 hectares, of State lands surveyed and divided into lots and ready to be delivered to colonists. All that is necessary to make these lands productive is to regulate the navigation of the Upper Paraná and to construct a few bridges inland, there being no need to build extensive systems of railway.

ERECTION OF A PAPER MILL.

The "Wood Pulp News," New York, of June 29, 1899, says that the rumors which have for some time past been current with regard to the erection of a new paper mill near Buenos Ayres seem to be taking concrete shape. The site selected is on the right bank of the Rio Parana, in the immediate neighborhood of the main line of railroad from Buenos Ayres toward Rio de Janeiro, so that transportation to and from the mill by land and water will be easy. The contemplated works are to be built by a company to be formed at a nominal capital of £180,000, gold. The machinery is to be of the most improved type, capable of turning out daily 20 tons of news, writing, and other qualities of paper. The promoters hope not only to supply the local demand, but also to export largely to the neighboring Republics.

THE WHEAT AND CORN CROPS.

The Buenos Ayres "Times," for July 1, says that late official returns are to the effect that the total wheat crop of the Republic is about 1,400,000 tons, of which about 800,000 tons will be for export. Close upon that quantity has been shipped, and there is a large stock available for shipment. The exports will doubtless exceed a million tons. The crop of maize is likely to be a record-breaking one, the present difficulty in connection with it being the inability on the part of the farmers to increase the rate of wages for labor and the scarcity

of workmen to gather the ears from the stalks. According to shippers, the quality of the product is not of the best, but if prices in the European markets improve, it is thought that most of it will be found good enough for immediate shipment. Some of the dealers and several of the shippers estimate the probable quantity of corn available for export at 2,000,000 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Minister of Public Works of the Argentine Republic has ordered a map of all the State railroads to be made. The work is under the charge of the engineer, Señor VOYER. The Argentine railway system now comprises 15,884 kilometers, as against 14,035 in Brazil, 11,469 in Mexico, 3,957 in Chile, and 1,624 in Peru.

Mr. SIMON MANY, Commissioner of Foreign Commerce for France at Mercedes, gives the following statements: The discovery of a metallic ore rich in manganese has recently been made in the province of San Luis. A Belgian engineer who visited the place found that there is in that region a quarry bearing a fine specimen of marble with red spots. Some of the quarried product has been shipped to France, where it seems to be in great demand. Some of these quarries are yielding good profits, while others have not been as yet developed for want of capital. The same authority also reports that a telegraphic convention *ad referendum* has been lately signed between the Argentine Republic and Brazil for the establishment of a direct line between Buenos Ayres and Porto Alegre, which, while improving the international service, will also bring a reduction in the telegraphic rates between the two countries.

BOLIVIA.

EXPORTS OF SILVER ORE TO THE UNITED STATES.

What was probably the first cargo of silver and silver ore brought from the west coast of South America to an Atlantic port of the United States reached the city of Philadelphia on July 18, 1899. On that date the British steamer *Kentigern* brought 16,239 sacks of high-grade silver ore and 600 bars of pig silver, valued at over $150,000, besides a cargo of miscellaneous products valued at $160,000 more. The steamer left Guayaquil, Ecuador, on April 25, 1899, and visited a number of South American ports en route, adding to its cargo.

The silver came from rich mines high up in the Bolivian Andes, which are operated by miners from the United States and Great Britain. The ore must be carried by pack mules to Antofagasta, the nearest seaport. The lack of smelting facilities makes it necessary to ship most of the ore out of the Republic, but the grade is so nearly pure that it can compete successfully with the baser ores of other countries even with the additional expense.

BRAZIL.

COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF BAHIA.

The State of Bahia, Brazil, is situated between the ninth and eighteenth degrees of south latitude. It has a superficial area of 164,601 square miles, with 635 miles of coast line. It extends from the River Real in the north to Doce Creek, forming part of the boundary line between Bahia and Minas Geraes. The surface of the country is of a mountainous character, the height of the uplands being from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is intersected by a number of magnificent rivers. The climate varies with the locality; on the seacoast it is generally warm the entire year, the hottest months being from December to April, when the average is 84°. During these months malarial, yellow, and other pernicious fevers prevail constantly, but in the interior of the State, which is far more temperate, yellow fever is scarcely ever heard of. The population of the State, which was in 1895, exclusive of various tribes of Indians, 1,683,641, is now claimed by the latest official computation to be 1,870,000, of whom about 16 per cent are foreigners. The capital, San Salvador, usually called Bahia, has a population of about 250,000, the predominating foreign element being Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish. Fully 80 per cent of the total population are negroes and half-breeds. The Government has a land system of telegraphs embracing nearly the whole of Brazil, which, through Para, connects with the French trans-Atlantic cable to Europe and the United States. Besides this, there is the British Western and Brazilian Telegraph Company, with a cable from Para to the River Plate, connecting at Pernambuco with the Submarine Company, having a cable between that port and St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands.

There are six lines of railway open to traffic, while another is in course of construction. Ten regular lines of steamers call at the port of Bahia, besides "tramps" seeking cargoes. Of the regular lines, three are British, two German, two French, two Italian, and one Austrian. In addition to these are five British coasting lines. The number of steamships of all nationalities entering and clearing the port of Bahia during the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 was 810, 790, and 678, respectively. The coasting-trade law, by which only vessels under the Brazilian flag are allowed to trade between Brazilian ports, went into force two years ago, but the national mercantile marine has been found inadequate to cope with this traffic, and delays and serious losses to the merchants have been the result. For years there has been a general complaint at the great delay in landing goods at the custom-house; steamers arrive and discharge their cargoes into lighters, where on many occasions the merchandise remains for six weeks or more previous to being landed at the custom-house wharves. Matters, however, somewhat improved during 1898, when a contract was entered into

with the firm of ARMSTRONG, WHITEHOUSE & Co. for two powerful hydraulic cranes, which will enable the lighters to unload their goods more rapidly. The roads all through the State, except in the vicinity of towns, are but mere bridle paths, and everything transported overland has to be conveyed on the backs of mules. In the interior the River Sao Francisco is navigable for moderate-sized, shallow-draft vessels from Cabrobó to Cachoeira de Pirapora, in the State of Minas Geraes, a distance of nearly 850 miles. A great number of the affluents of this river are also navigable by the same craft for long distances.

The British Consul at Bahia, Mr. NICOLINI, has recently made a report to his home government on the trade of Bahia for the years 1896, 1897, and 1898, printed by the Foreign Office as No. 2282 of the annual series of the diplomatic and consular reports of Great Britain. From this the following facts are obtained:

The principal industries of the State are agricultural. Of the leading crops, the production of tobacco is very large and sold in 1898 for high prices. The crop of the present year is looked upon as almost a complete failure, caused by severe drought, which has prevailed for nearly six months. During the year 1897 the exports of tobacco were 23,456,185 kilos, valued at £714,339. Coffee is reported to be in a most depressed condition, owing to the constant fall in price. The quantity exported in 1897 was 17,835,979 kilos, valued at £347,185. It is fully expected by those interested that owing to neglect in pruning and the abandonment of the plantations opened up several years ago, every year hereafter will show a gradual diminution in the production of this article.

The quantity of rubber received during 1898 increased materially. In the unexplored interior of this State, inhabited by different tribes of Indians, large tracts of forests with an abundance of rubber trees are said to exist, but owing to difficulties in the way of transportation this source of wealth is almost unavailable. The exports of rubber in 1897 were 234,379 kilos, valued at £19,223.

The number of hides exported has greatly increased during the past twelve months, but this is entirely due to the great mortality among the cattle caused by the drought. The number of hides exported in 1897 was 164,628, valued at £46,001.

Besides agricultural products, there is considerable trade in diamonds and carbonates, the products of mines situated in the interior of the State. The whole State is rich in mineral wealth, but it has never been properly exploited. Gold may be found in various sections, but with the exception of washings of alluvial deposits by the native laborers, the only mine in operation is the "Jacobina" mine, where machinery has been erected for crushing quartz. So far, the results have not been satisfactory. Manganese has been discovered in abundance in the province of San Antonio, and two mines are being worked there. They yield an ore averaging about 42 per cent. Cargoes of this ore have been shipped to Europe and the United States. Monazite sand was

found some years ago near the town of Prado, in the southern part of the State, by a mining engineer from the United States. After a controversy with the State government, he was granted the exclusive privilege, in 1897, of exporting the sand, which is estimated to be worth £20 per ton. The State export duty, on this valuation, is 24 per cent.

Several cotton factories exist in the State, principally in the capital or its immediate vicinity, the greater part of the raw cotton being imported. These mills manufacture coarse and fine cotton cloths, calicoes, striped, checked, and blue drills, ticking, etc., all of which is consumed in the State. They can not, however, supply one-tenth part of the local consumption. The number producing ticking and coarse cotton bagging is 10, employing 3,000 hands; 1 factory, employing 1,200 hands, produces prints and fine cloths; another factory produces jute bagging and cloth, and employs 120 hands. Besides these there is a match factory employing 60 hands; a tannery employing 50 hands; 2 boot and shoe factories, with 120 operatives; 6 sawmills, with 120 men; 7 soap works with 60 hands, and 3 candle factories employing 40 persons. Cigar and cigarette factories are numerous. This is probably the most important industry in the State, other than agriculture, there being 6,000 men, women, and children employed. There are also 3 foundries, 2 of which belong to Brazilians and the other to an English firm. They can not produce castings over 5 tons in weight.

For the year 1897 the total value of imports was £1,950,000. The principal articles imported were woolen, linen, cotton, and silk stuffs; Hessian and jute bagging and yarn; hardware; iron, steel, copper, and brass manufactures of all descriptions; machinery; railway material of all kinds; coal; pine lumber; cordage of all kinds; canvas; groceries; wines; spirits; petroleum; oils; flour and salt. Of such imports, about 36 per cent come from the British possessions, although there is no doubt that Great Britain is losing ground and Germany forging ahead, owing to a cheaper class of articles being supplied and the greater facilities for payment. Up to the present time, however, France is the greatest loser by Germany's advance.

It is very difficult to secure information from the Government departments with regard to the imports, and almost impossible to give a correct idea of the merchandise coming into the State. During 1898 twenty-six general cargoes arrived from the United States, which excels in only one article of the import trade—flour. During the year 1897 the exports from Bahia to the United States were as follows: Coffee, 11,398,200 kilos; cocoa, 681,720 kilos; hides (number), 29,159; sugar, 7,619 bags; rosewood, 2,181 logs; india rubber, 1,381 packages; logwood, 893 logs; tobacco, 160 kilos.

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

From the returns, as published by the British Government for the first six months of the year 1899, the following figures with reference to the trade between the United Kingdom and Brazil have been obtained.

The values, given in the British report in pounds sterling, have, for convenience, been reduced to United States currency values, £1 being equal to $4.866. Exports to Brazil: Cotton piece goods of all kinds, unbleached, bleached, printed, dyed, or colored, $2,770,705.25; decrease, compared with the same months of 1898, $1,028,253.92. Jute piece goods, jute yarn, linen manufactures, and woolen and worsted tissues, $1,048,073.14; decrease, $258,267.81. Metallic manufactures, including all articles of wrought copper, hardware, cutlery, bar, angle, bolt and wrought iron, railroad iron and steel, steel and iron wire, hoops, sheets, boiler and armor plate, galvanized sheets, tin plates and sheets, cast iron and steel and of iron and steel combined, $1,673,597; decrease, $293,541.45. Leather, and boots and shoes, $115,854.59; decrease, $59,053.77. Cement and earthenware, $222,308.08; increase, $32,402.69. Oils from seeds, $16,007.14; decrease, $5,756.48.

The imports from Brazil during this period were as follows: Unrefined sugar, $138,632.34; same in first six months of 1898, $665,985.09; decrease, $527,352.65. Coffee, $363,757.83; in 1898, $511,221.96; decrease, $147,464.13. Raw cotton, $17,712.24; in 1898, $402,150.57; decrease, $384,438.33.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN PARÁ AND NEW YORK.

The State Government of Pará has appropriated $50,000 (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, page 215), to which the authorities at Rio de Janeiro have added $200,000, as a subsidy for the purpose of establishing a new line of steamships from New York to the city of Pará. New York parties have been in negotiations with the Pará authorities for some time looking to the establishment of this line, and in case of the eventual success of the scheme it is their purpose to put three steamers on the line, making triweekly trips. As most of the beef cattle raised in Brazil are raised for the hides alone, and the meat is tough and unfit for food, the company expects to do a thriving business in furnishing the markets of Pará and Rio de Janeiro with frozen meat. As the population of the city of Pará is about 100,000, to say nothing of the vastly larger population of Rio de Janeiro, the new line will doubtless be a paying one.

ELECTRIC TRACTION IN PARÁ.

Foreign capital has been attracted to the construction of electric traction in Brazil, an account of which was given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for July, 1899, page 11. One of the most important enterprises of this kind is that of the city of Sao Paulo, which is quite a manufacturing center of about 200,000 inhabitants, and is largely self-supporting. Some 20 miles from the city there is available water power, which it is calculated will furnish a minimum supply of from 15,000 to 20,000 horsepower. A syndicate has been formed in New York to utilize this power and transmit it to the city for furnishing the

lighting, railway, and power service. Franchises have been obtained for street-railway lines covering all the desirable routes in the city, and engineers have already sailed for Sao Paulo, with a large consignment of electric-railway apparatus, to enter upon the construction of the lines.

THE AMAZON TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The Electrical World and Engineer for July 22 reports that, after encountering many difficulties, the Amazon Telegraph Company has decided to abandon the cable in the Amazon River from Pará to Manaos. The company is, however, building a land line with the same reaches of cable. It has issued bonds in the sum of $600,000, with interest at 5 per cent, and it is stated that the Brazilian Government has granted to the company a subsidy of $85,625 a year for twelve years.

AN ICE PLANT FOR PARÁ.

The "Journal of Commerce" of New York for July 21 reports that Messrs. G. Amsinck & Co. are preparing to ship to Pará a complete ice-making plant of 10 tons capacity per day. This plant, when in operation, will make the sixth ice plant already in use in that city, with a combined output of 40 tons per day. At the present time considerable ice is shipped from Pará to various parts of Brazil. The outlook for this industry in other parts of the Republic is said to be encouraging.

MARKET FOR MIRRORS.

The Consul for France at Rio de Janeiro, in his annual report, recently published in Paris by the French Government, says that mirrors have an important sale throughout Brazil. According to the statistics which this official furnished, the imports of looking-glasses and mirror glass during 1898 were: From Germany, 326,576 kilograms; England, 49,667 kilograms; France, 35,273 kilograms, and Belgium, 26,260 kilograms. High-class frames are generally of French origin, the commoner lines coming from Germany. The German gilding is considered greatly inferior to the French; hence the mirrors are much cheaper and sell more readily, though they have to be replaced in a much shorter time. The customs duties on pictures, looking-glasses, and mirror glass of less than 15 square decimeters (234 square inches) are from 1 franc (19.3 cents) to 1.30 francs (25.09 cents) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), according to the richness of the frames. Above this size the duty is 50 per cent *ad valorem*. The duty on ready-made frames or moldings is 2 francs per kilogram.

TOUR OF UNITED STATES MINISTER BRYAN.

Extracts from Brazilian newspapers have been received at the Bureau of the American Republics which give accounts of the visits of Colonel Charles Page Bryan, Minister of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by other members of the legation, to the States

of Sao Paulo and Bahia. A special correspondent of the "Correio Paulistano" was also with the party, which was everywhere received in the most cordial manner. On July 2 the Minister arrived at Joazeiras, State of Bahia, with the Governor of the State. They were enthusiastically received at Alagoinhaus, Serrinha, Villa Nova, and other wayside stations. On July 3 the party inaugurated a new line of steamers to ply on the River Sao Francisco, which will open up much of the interior of the Republic to the commerce of the world.

PRINCIPAL TEXTILE PLANT.

The French Consul in Rio de Janeiro has sent to the National Bureau of Foreign Commerce a very interesting report on the textile plants of Brazil, dealing particularly with the *agave americana*, which he describes as follows:

"The leaves of this plant often attain the size of 2 meters 25 centimeters in length. They are formed by a series of long fibers, strong and very fine, running lengthwise in a thick pulp-like substance. When the leaves are green they weigh ten times as much as when they are dry. A properly prepared leaf yields two-thirds of its weight in fiber. Attention must be called to the fact that it is easier to prepare the leaf when it is half green, the fiber thus obtained being purer and stronger. When cultivated in a proper soil, the plant may begin to yield leaves ready for the knife when a year old. The best soil is a calcareous and porous earth. The cultivation of the plant requires capital and a certain amount of knowledge of agricultural chemistry."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Large contracts have been made with United States electrical companies for the new electric roads at Rio de Janeiro, Pará, and Manaos.

Hereafter all the steamers of the Hamburg-American Line, going to Brazil and the River Plate, will touch at Cherbourg, according to "Le Nouveau Monde."

Next year will be the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, and it is proposed to celebrate it fittingly. The Congress has been asked to appropriate $60,000 toward the expenses of the celebration.

By Decree No. 3307, of June 6, 1899, the Government of Brazil authorized the Brazilian Sub-Marine Telegraph and the Western and Brazilian Telegraph companies to consolidate under the denomination of "The Western Telegraph Company, Limited," and operate in Brazil as one company.

A comparative statement of the customs receipts at Rio de Janeiro for the first half of each of the two years of 1898 and 1899 shows that during the former they were $42,418,465.45 and during the latter $37,460,595.28, showing a decrease during the latter of $4,957,870.17,

or nearly 12 per cent. The disparity is more apparent than real, however, when it is recalled that 10 per cent of the import duties during the present year is collected in gold.

CHILE.

OPENING OF CONGRESS—THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Chilean Congress opened its 1899 session on July 1, the chief feature of the occasion being the brevity and laconism of the President's speech. President ERRÁZURIZ has broken through all the traditions in the way of Presidential addresses, and has expressed himself in a very few words. A resumé of his remarks with respect to the financial condition and prospects of the Republic shows that during the fiscal year of 1898 there were on hand in the national treasury $2,462,367.91, which sum added to the estimate of revenue for the current year, amounting to $108,255,906, makes a total of $110,719,273.91. The estimated expenditure for the current year amounts to $102,221,847, which will leave a surplus for next year of $8,497,426.57. The estimated expenditure for 1900, in gold and currency, amounts to $100,940,079.16, while the estimated ordinary and extraordinary revenue amounts to $108,374,548.79, which, added to the surplus just referred to, makes a total of $116,871,975.36. The value of the foreign trade of the country in 1898 amounted to $270,331,429, of which sum $102,262,058 corresponded to imports, and $168,069,431 to exports. There was a falling off of $35,948,860 in imports, while the exports showed an increase of $31,438,211 as compared with 1897.

Of the conversion of paper money, the President says: "One of the regrettable results of the strained international relations of last year (with the Argentine Republic) was the disappearance of the gold standard, which the country had adopted at the cost of very great sacrifices. The financial position of the country is, however, such that it is possible to predict with certainty that conversion will be carried out in conformity with the act of July 31, 1898." In the expenditures there is included the sum of $15,000,000 to give effect to this last-named act. The returns of the State railways show a profit of $948,918, being an excess of $568,559 over 1897. The President goes on to say that the high price of copper will favor a larger exportation of this metal; "the revenues will exceed the expenditures; exchange has improved greatly; the cessation of expenditure for war material and the prosecution of important public works will bring about a general improvement."

NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

After considerable difficulties, President ERRÁZURIZ has succeeded in forming his new Ministry. This task was first confided to Gen.

ARÍSTIDES MARTÍNEZ, but the limitations placed upon him were such that he could not carry out the Presidential programme. The President finally called in Don RAIMUNDO SILVA CRUZ, a Liberal deputy, and requested him to form a Ministry within the Liberal elements. Señor SILVA CRUZ succeeded in forming a Ministry composed as follows:

Minister of the Interior, Don RAIMUNDO SILVA CRUZ; Minister of Foreign Relations, Public Worship, and Colonization, Don FEDERICO PUGA BORNE; Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Don FRANCISCO J. HERBOSO; Minister of Finance, Don FEDERICO PINTO IZARRA; Minister of War and Marine, Don JAVIER FIGUEROA; Minister of Industry and Public Works, Don DANIEL RIOSECO.

The Prime Minister, Señor SILVA CRUZ, is about 45 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and a Liberal-Democrat in politics. He is a member of the present Chamber of Deputies, and served as Minister of Foreign Relations in the coalition Ministry presided over by ANTONIO VALDES CUEVAS.

Don FEDERICO PUGA BORNE is about 43 years of age, a physician by profession, and belongs to what is usually known as the *Liberal-Errazurizta* party. He is at present a Senator of the Republic, and was at one time Minister of Justice and Public Instruction.

Don FRANCISCO J. HERBOSO is about 48 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and a Liberal Democrat in politics. He resigned the position of Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies to accept his present portfolio.

Don FEDERICO PINTO IZARRA is about 42 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and in politics a member of that branch of the Liberal party denominated *Liberal-Doctrinarios*. He was Secretary of the Chilean Legation at Washington in 1881.

Don JAVIER FIGUEROA is in the neighborhood of 43 years of age, a lawyer, and a *Liberal-Errazurizta*. This is the first public position he has occupied.

Don DANIEL RIOSECO is about 43 years of age, a Liberal Democrat in politics, a physician, and at present a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Ministry has for the present, at least, the support of all the allied Liberal forces and can count upon a positive majority of six in the Senate and a very large one in the Chamber of Deputies. So long as the allied Liberal forces continue to act in accord the life of the present Ministry will last.

A NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

According to a communication to the "Moniteur Officiel" from Mr. PAUL ROBIN, French Consular representative at Valparaiso, the Spanish Minister at Santiago has recently obtained from the Chilean Government a subvention of £25,000 in favor of the "Compagnie Espa-

gnole Transatlantique," for the establishment of a line of steamers between Spanish and Chilean ports. It is stated that the contract is for a period of four years and that the steamers of this company are to reach Valparaiso at intervals of fifteen days, after touching at the chief ports of Brazil, Uruguay, and of the Argentine Republic, and at Punta Arenas, near the western end of the Straits of Magellan. The company reserves the right to extend its service to the northern ports of Chile some time in the future.

INCREASED POSTAL RECEIPTS.

During the year 1898, 11,752,923 pieces of mail matter, representing a value of $418,765.27, passed through the Valparaiso post-office, being an increase as compared with 1897 of 76,618 pieces and of $11,360.52. Money orders on home offices were issued to the value of $379,032.39 and on foreign offices to the value of $18,903.62. The orders paid were, from the interior, 37,576, of the value of $1,337,518.48, and from abroad, 236, of the value of $19,923.67. The Parcels Post showed the following results: Samples of no value, 2,047; parcels duty free, 1,300, of the declared value of $24,733.46; parcels dutiable, 2,913, valued at $105,398.56; duty paid, $38,572.71. In this branch France led, with Germany second, and England third. The excess of receipts over expenditures has been steadily increasing for the past six years, and in 1898 was $91,545.95.

THE PUNITAQUE QUICKSILVER MINE.

The "Mining and Engineering Review" for July says that San Francisco capitalists have obtained a bond on the famous Punitaque quicksilver mine near the city of Coquimbo, in the province of the same name in the Republic of Chile. This mine is situated only 4 miles from the railway connecting Coquimbo and Santiago. It was discovered in 1785, and the Spanish Viceroy at that time, in his report to the home Government, said that this mine was "the richest jewel in the Spanish Crown." The cinnabar ore ranges from 5 to 10 per cent in quicksilver. The property is owned by the family of the late JUAN M. LUCO, formerly Consul from Chile to the United States, and the bonding has been effected by J. M. TINOCO, Consul-General of Costa Rica.

EXPORTS OF NITRATES IN 1898.

The exports of nitrates from Chile during the year 1898 amounted to 28,468,058 Spanish quintals, exceeding by 4,497,270 quintals the figures of 1897. The exports of nitrates during this and the coming year have been estimated at 30,000,000 Spanish quintals. The exports of this article to England, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and other countries of Europe during the first quarter of 1899 amounted to 394,000 tons. From April 1, 1898, to March 31, 1899, there were exported from all ports of Chile nitrate to the amount of 1,320,000 tons, as against 925,000 in the same period of 1896–97, and 1,130,000 in 1897–98.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS.

The Technical Inspector of the Chilean State Railways has presented to the Government an interesting report dealing with the means of transportation within the Republic, and suggesting the railways and maritime installations which are necessary to complete all the sections of the State railway. The inspector recommends the prolongation of certain lines and the completion of others, as also the erection of piers and other works on the coast and the construction of new lines of railway thereto. The estimated cost to carry out the plan submitted by the inspector will entail upon the Government the expenditure of $15,000,000.

GOVERNMENTAL AID TO SHIPPING.

The "Marine Review" of August 3 says that the Republic of Chile is considering the problem of giving Governmental aid to its shipping. Various solutions of the existing high shipping rates have been proposed, among which is a plan to make annually a subsidy allowance per registered ton for each 1,000 miles traversed; a scheme for granting privileges and reductions in duties to vessels flying the Chilean flag, and a suggestion for the establishment of a steamship line under the patronage of the State.

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

According to the published figures issued by the Board of Trade of Great Britain, the trade returns of that country with the Republic of Chile for the six months ending June 30, 1899, excepting for nitrates, as compared with the same months of 1898 (the values being reduced to United States currency), were as follows:

IMPORTS FROM CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Wheat	$24,948.25	$565,662.77
Copper ore	950,183.82	355,748.39
Copper, regulus and precipitates	353,801.99	333,350.20
Copper, unwrought and partly wrought	1,960,579.52	1,555,061.68
Total	3,289,513.58	2,809,823.04

EXPORTS TO CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached	$204,571.51	$158,256.92
Bleached	385,708.36	413,926.29
Printed	292,913.74	327,914.87
Dyed	287,843.36	256,929.67
Woolen piece goods	154,962.64	188,411.52
Worsted piece goods	176,110.27	176,825.57
Carpets	33,770.04	49,370.44
Iron and steel and manufactures of	417,303.29	461,029.17
Total	1,953,183.21	2,032,664.45

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC LIGHT AT PUNTA ARENAS.

A recent issue of the "Chilean Times," published at Valparaiso, Chile, contains illustrations and a brief account of the electric light station at Punta Arenas. This plant was installed by the Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Company, and started on September 17, 1898, for the "Compañía de Luz Eléctrica de Punta Arenas," an organization of local capitalists. The installation is the farthest south of any electrical establishment in the country, and was originally placed with the intention of lighting the dwelling houses and streets of the city. A contract has since been entered into with the city government to furnish 250 street lights of 32 candlepower each. For this a duplicate plant of electrical machinery has been ordered, the first not being of sufficient capacity to adequately light both dwelling houses and streets.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A Latin-American Medical Congress will be held in Santiago from December 25, 1900, to January 1, 1901.

The customs revenues during the first four months of the current year in Chile amounted to $20,553,742.10, as compared with $19,614,029.86 in the corresponding period of last year.

The *Guatemala*, a new steamship ordered by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company for the traffic between Valparaiso and Central America, sailed from Liverpool for the Pacific on July 1, last.

Chilean merchants are much interested in a movement which is now on foot to request of the Government the loan of a vessel on which to establish a floating exhibition of the country's products and manufactures. It is proposed that the exhibition shall visit Pacific ports, and much interest is being manifested in the scheme.

"The South American Journal" is authority for the statement that, up to the 1st of July last, $75,900 had been subscribed in Chile with the object of promoting the opening of maritime commerce between that Republic, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, and Brazil. The transports *Angamos* and *Casma* were to be employed in a first trial, and, should the undertaking turn out to be profitable, a syndicate with a capital of £200,000 was to be formed to place the business on a firm foundation.

On April 18, 1899, the Chilean Government promulgated a decree which recites that "whereas specifications for railroad buildings generally included the obligation to use Oregon pine in the construction; that there are first-class woods in the country which can be used advantageously over foreign lumber in said work, hereafter lumber to be used in the construction of railroads must be of domestic origin, and that whenever it becomes necessary, owing to local conditions, to employ Oregon pine, or other foreign lumber, the approval of the Government must first be obtained, and these conditions must be recited in the specifications."

COLOMBIA.

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

From the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom during the year 1899" the following data relative to the British trade with the Republic of Colombia for the six months ending June 30 have been obtained:

The receipts of Colombian products are not shown in the British report, but are no doubt included under the general headings "South America" and "Other countries." The shipments to Colombia from British ports in the period named, and also in the corresponding months of 1898, were: Gray or unbleached piece goods, £13,986 in 1899, and £14,187 in 1898; bleached piece goods, £62,832 in 1899, and £56,439 in 1898; printed piece goods, in 1899 £80,153, and in 1898 £63,675; dyed piece goods, in 1899, £36,443; in 1898, £29,361. Total cotton manufactures, £193,414 in 1899, and £163,662 in 1898, or, reduced to United States values, $941,152.52 in 1899, and $796,379.29 in 1898. During the same periods the sale of linen goods, which is the only other article figuring in the report, was as follows: In 1899, £12,456; in 1898, £16,954; or $60,610.90 in 1899 and $82,498.16 in 1898.

CONCESSION FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES.

The Government of Colombia has determined to grant a concession for the manufacture of matches for a period of twenty-five years. The concessionary will be expected to erect three factories in three different provinces of the Republic, the first of which has to be in operation one year from the signing of the concession. Bids may be sent in, up to the end of September, 1899, to the Ministerio de Hacienda, at Bogotá. The importance of the concession may be realized from the fact that the importation of matches into Colombia in 1897 amounted to 608,398 kilograms, of which 176,911 were wax vestas. An account of an agreement with reference to the granting of a match monopoly was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899, pages 2165, and 2166.

NEW MINISTER OF THE TREASURY.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received advices stating that General JULIO RENGIFO, for many years Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires of the Colombian Legation in the city of Washington, and who is now on leave in his native country, has been appointed Minister of the Treasury. General RENGIFO, by reason of his long diplomatic experience, his keen intelligence, and statesmanlike qualities, will carry into his new office not only great qualifications, but the congratulations of his many friends in the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Colombian Government will place a light-house on Gomez Island, in order to point out the dangers to navigation which the neighborhood of the mouth of the Magdalena river presents on the Puerto Colombia side.

The Columbus Bridge Company, Columbus, Ohio, recently shipped for the Magdalena and Bogatá Railroad Company, of Colombia, five steel bridges for the line of that railroad. One bridge has a span of 120 feet, two have spans of 100 feet each, and two of 36 feet each.

COSTA RICA.

GOLD COINAGE AUTHORIZED.

The Constitutional Congress of Costa Rica, by enactments of June 24, 1899, empowered the Executive Power to negotiate a private loan to an amount not to exceed £200,000, pledging as security 60,000 ordinary shares of the Costa Rican railroad, owned by the nation. The total proceeds of the loan are to be converted into national gold coin of the fineness and weight established by Decree No. 4, of October, 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The exporting of beef cattle from Costa Rica to Cuba continues, and is making deep inroads on the domestic supply.

The legal existence of the Anglo-Costa Rican Bank, of San José, has been extended to June 30,1930.

CUBA.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN 1899.

The total customs receipts at the several ports of Cuba during the six months ending June 30, 1899, amounted to $7,084,168.51. Of this amount $6,227,098.37 were derived from import duties; $388,801.11 from export duties; $14,512.81 from capitation taxes; $74,898.99 from harbor improvement taxes; $5,857.27 from coastwise tonnage taxes; $229,181.89 from foreign tonnage taxes, and $140,095.07 from other sources. The number of vessels coastwise and foreign that entered and cleared the ports of Cuba for the first six months of 1899 is as follows: Total number of coastwise vessels entered, 4,527; total of foreign entered, 2,228. Total of coastwise tonnage entered, 729,988 tons; total of foreign tonnage entered, 2,477,340 tons. Total number of coastwise vessels cleared, 4,459; total number of foreign vessels cleared,

2,128. Total of coastwise tonnage cleared, 746,558 tons; total of foreign tonnage cleared, 2,352,668.

DISCOVERY OF THE RUBBER TREE.

The "India Rubber World" of July 1 says that it is the positive conviction of Maj. J. ORTON KERBEY, who recently returned from a tour of Cuba, that he found on the island the true rubber tree of Central America (*Castilloa elastica*) growing wild. This officer also observes that the conditions for the cultivation of the rubber plant are more favorable in Cuba than even in Mexico or Nicaragua. Major KERBEY pursued his investigations further into the interior of the country than any recent visitor, "being aided in his search for the rubber tree by orders from the Government at Washington, which gave him command of the facilities of the United States military establishment on the island." He says that he particularly noticed the *Castilloa elastica* on the southern coast of the country, while he was informed by old residents of good repute that such trees were to be found in abundance. Moreover, he was assured that in former years *goma* (rubber) figured in the exports, going presumably to Spanish markets.

OPENING OF NEW IRON MINES.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" of July 15 notes that the "Cuban Steel Ore Company" has been organized in Philadelphia. According to the company's prospectus, it is proposed to open up two groups of iron mines 45 miles west of Santiago, in the province of the same name, and to build a railway about 10 miles in length, connecting the mines with the harbor of Chivirico, together with piers, docks, etc. These mines are stated to contain about 2,100 acres, and it is believed that over 20,000 tons of ore are in sight. This ore is regarded as high grade Bessemer.

ELECTRIC PLANT AT MATANZAS.

A press dispatch sent from Racine, Wisconsin, states that MATTHEW SLUSH, A. W. BISHOP, and other officials of the Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Electric Railway Company, have secured the option for six months on $750,000 worth of land at Matanzas. Upon this it is proposed to erect a large electric-lighting plant and an immense warehouse, while a system of electric railways will be built from Matanzas to the neighboring towns.

ECUADOR.

THE TRADE IN MACHINERY.

In response to an inquiry of a firm in Massachusetts, Consul-General DE LEON writes from Guayaquil that there is not a large machine trade in Ecuador. Mr. MANN, a Scotchman, has machine works in Guaya-

quil. There are also a few factories, sugar refineries, and other establishments using steam power in the city and Province. It is reported that the "Ecuador Development Company," 33 Wall street, New York City, is contracting for locomotives and other supplies for the Guayaquil and Quito Railroad. Most of the supplies are ordered from the United States directly or through jobbers. W. R. GRACE & Co., FLINT, EDDY & Co., and other firms, have agencies in Guayaquil. No stock of machinery or machinery supplies worth mentioning is carried, but orders are made from catalogues. Six months' credit is sometimes granted, but cash seems to be the rule for this kind of goods. Importers generally require cash or first class security from their customers.

The imports of steam machinery and appliances from the United States in 1898, according to the Consul's statement, amounted to about $40,000, gold; about $20,000 worth more came from European countries. In Mr. DE LEON'S opinion, the two things necessary to increase the trade of the United States with the west coast of South America are competent traveling salesmen and reasonable freight rates. The Panama railroad line, he says, charges 47½ cents per cubic foot; GRACE & Co. and FLINT, EDDY & Co. charge 25 to 30 cents per cubic foot via Magellan Straits. The Consul concludes his report with this observation, that "an Isthmian canal is a vital necessity; only when it is constructed will we (the United States) have the business we should have on this coast."

OPENING FOR ELECTRIC PLANTS.

Replying under date of June 12, 1899, to the inquiries of a firm in New York City, Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, Consul-General of the United States at Guayaquil, says there is no electric power in Guayaquil and as yet no demand for electrical supplies. The Consul is of the opinion, however, that there is an excellent opening for an electric-light and street-railway service. He says that the city is prosperous, has a population of about 50,000, and with the construction of the proposed railroad to Quito is bound to increase in population and wealth. At the present time it is lighted with gas of a poor quality, which costs the municipality a considerable sum annually. A street-car system traverses almost every street, but mules, the motive power, are costly. The finances of the city are said to be in a flourishing condition. The stock of the street railway company was quoted at 50 cents on the dollar in 1896, but there is now a cash reserve equal to 50 per cent of the capitalization. Annual dividends of 15 per cent are declared, and at the time of Mr. DE LEON'S report the stock was worth $150 per share. Fuel is scarce and expensive, but superb water power is available at some distance from the city. In 1896 the installation of an electric-light service was in progress, but a great conflagration, which destroyed 83 blocks of the best part of the city, including the electric plant, caused the enterprise to be abandoned. The burnt district is now

almost wholly rebuilt with a better class of edifices, and, in the opinion of Mr. DE LEON, the time seems propitious for the establishment of a system combining transportation and illumination.

MEXICO.

SYNOPSIS OF THE RAILROAD LAW OF 1899.

The Department of State of the United States has received from Gen. POWELL CLAYTON, Ambassador to Mexico, a copy and translation of the new railroad law of the Republic, promulgated April 29, 1899. The law is of considerable length, as it seeks to cover everything connected with the granting of concessions. Regarding this new move on the part of the Mexican Government the Ambassador says that heretofore each concession has been the subject of a special law. The general law will hereafter apply to all new concessions, and to all concessions previously granted the terms of which do not conflict with this law. The new law renders it more difficult to obtain subsidized concessions, and accentuates the control exercised by the Government over companies.

Railroads are divided into those of general and those of local interest. Only the former can be subsidized. Among those of general interest the law designates those of prime importance yet to be constructed. Such are the lines to connect the central network of railroads with the Pacific Ocean and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Yucatan, and Guatemala. Lines of prime importance may be subsidized. Other projected lines may be declared to be of prime importance upon the advice of the Cabinet. Formerly the supervision exercised by the Government was technical—to secure regularity of operation and safety of passengers. In the future the inspectors appointed by the Government may also call for an account of the financial operations of companies, issues of shares, their obligations, sinking funds, etc. They will have power to examine the books and all papers relating to the company. This supervision will also be exercised over the formation of new companies. Hereafter a company must first submit to the Government an estimate of the work to be performed on the proposed road, and the amount of capital stock to be issued will be determined from the projected work. It is intended thus to prevent the formation of companies with a capital stock disproportionate to the proposed enterprises. This law forbids, under penalty of forfeiture, the selling or hypothecating of concessions to any foreign country. Any shares, bonds, or obligations purchased by a foreign country shall be forfeited to the Mexican Government. The property of railroads in Mexico shall be subject to the civil code of the Federal District, except as provided by special law.

The law of December 25, 1877, and that of December 16, 1881,

excepting the article relating to the acquirement of telegraph and telephone lines by the Government, are repealed.

For the convenience of persons wishing to familiarize themselves with the text of the law, both the Spanish copy and the translation are on file in the Bureau of the American Republics.

THE PROGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Paris "Voltaire" devotes an article in a recent issue to Mexico, speaking most glowingly of the progress realized in the country during the last twenty-five years, and in part says:

"The revenues of Mexico in 1889–90 were $22,000,000, and they are now $54,000,000. In the same period the receipts of the custom-houses have advanced from $11,000,000 to $22,000,000. The value of the exports has increased from $41,000,000 in 1882 to $130,000,000 in 1897, which figures are very interesting, since, aside from the necessity of establishing her credit, Mexico has had to struggle with the decline of silver. Mexico is not only a producer of the white metal, but maintains silver as her monetary standard, having, on the other hand, to pay her debts in gold."

The article adds that, notwithstanding the above conditions, the country has gone on producing precious metals progressively. The production in 1880 was valued at $28,000,000, and in 1897 at $72,000,000. The article ends as follows:

"Her credit has been established, and at this time she occupies a leading place among nations with regard to her commerce, her industries, and her enterprising spirit."

EXPORTS FROM PHILADELPHIA DURING 1898–99.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Mr. E. SUBIKURSKI, Mexican Consul at Philadelphia, for a statement of the merchandise exported to the Mexican Republic through the said port during the fiscal year 1898–99. This report shows that during the year mentioned the invoice value of articles shipped to Mexico was $744,499.32. The value of manufactured articles, such as bridge material, iron and steel pieces, rails and steel plates, iron scales, plated articles, etc., was $31,792.80. The value of explosives, including dynamite and powder, was $93,720; of machinery, $364.73; of building material, $35,613.15; of mineral products, including crude, purified, and lubricating mineral oils, crude petroleum, and coal, was $578,543.43; of chemical products, including liquid ammonia and silicate of soda, $1,115.12; of cotton, wool, linen, and silk goods, $3,231.09; of extracts of several kinds, ground mustard, potatoes, and tea, $119.

TRADE WITH NEW YORK IN JUNE, 1899.

Through the courtesy of Señor A. LEON GRAJEDA, Chancellor of the Mexican Consulate-General, New York City, the Bureau of the American

Republics has been furnished with a list of the articles received at the port of New York from the Republic of Mexico during the month of June, 1899. The list embraces the following items: henequén, bales, 1,494; coffee, bags, 12,110; hides, bales, 3,905; hides, loose, 5,360; ixtle, packages, 2,750; goatskins, bales, 1,146; deerskins, bales, 38; rubber, bales, 107; leaf tobacco, bales, 1,766; cigars, packages, 115; zacaton, bales, 1,084; chicle, bales, 2,613; fustic, pieces, 24,575; hair, bales, 64; lead, bars, 69,885; mineral ores, packages, 14,857; sarsaparilla, bales, 309; vanilla, cases, 48; alligator skins, 771; bones, packages, 2,255; heron feathers, cases, 10; honey, barrels, 422; cedar, logs, 2,539; mahogany, logs, 2,333; jalap, sacks, 8; copper, bars, 24,116.

IMPORTS FROM SOUTHERN PORTS.

The value of the exports from Mobile, Alabama, to the Republic of Mexico, during the month of July, as kindly reported to this Bureau by Mr. WILLIAM A. LE BARRON, Mexican Consul at that port, was:

July 1, to Progreso	$5,873.00
July 3, to Tampico	22,895.00
July 14, to Progreso	17,565.00
Total	46,333.00

Señor Don VICENTE ROS, Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula, Mississippi, informs the Bureau that during the month of July last there were no imports from Mexico to that port. The exports therefrom to Mexican ports during the same month were as follows:

		Value.
To Coatzacoalcos	131,269 sup. feet p. p. lumber	$1,312
To Progreso	470,983 sup. feet p. p. lumber	4,710
To Vera Cruz	478,632 sup. feet p. p. lumber	4,638
	12 boxes malt nutrine	24
To Campeche	43,240 sup. feet p. p. lumber	511
	15,000 pounds general cargo	1,261

RECAPITULATION.

1,124,124 sup. feet p. p. lumber	$11,171
General cargo	1,285
Total	12,456

TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

According to the official statistical publication of Great Britain the trade with the Republic of Mexico for the first half of the year 1899 showed an increase over the same period in 1898 in the value of the goods purchased by the latter country. While undoubtedly there were many Mexican products exported to the British markets, they do not figure in the report named, except, perhaps, under general headings. The articles purchased by Mexico include the following items, the value of the purchases in 1898 being also given for the sake of comparison: Cotton manufactures—unbleached piece goods, £1,564 in 1899, and £1,255 in 1898; bleached piece goods, £89,802 in 1899, and £85,612 in

1898; printed piece goods, £74,442 in 1899, and £55,174 in 1898; dyed piece goods, £52,974 in 1899, and £38,501 in 1898; total value of cotton piece goods, £218,782 ($1,064,593.21) in 1899, and £180,542 ($878,517.37) in 1898. The value of the linen piece goods shipped in 1899 was £19,829 ($96,487.71) in 1899, and £19,102 ($92,950.33) in 1898.

MINERAL LOCATIONS IN SONORA.

There are nine mineral or mining districts in the State of Sonora, Mexico, namely: Alamos, Altar, Arizpe, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Magdalena, Moctezuma, Sahuaripa, and Ures. "El Correo de Sonora," in a recent issue, says that the increase in the number of applications for mineral locations in this State since the enforcement of the mining law of 1892 has been very remarkable. During the last few months this has been especially noticeable in the Moctezuma district. From January 1 to April 30, 1899, more than one quarter of the applications filed in the State were made in this district, or 110 out of 381. For the first four months of each year during the past seven years the applications were as follows: 1893, 117; 1894, 91; 1895, 188; 1896, 242; 1897, 195; 1898, 347; 1899, 381. For the whole year the same ratio of increase is found, the total applications in 1893 being 322, and in 1898, 762. That is to say, in the period of six years from 1893 to 1898, inclusive, the increase has been more than 100 per cent in the number of such applications registered.

PROFIT IN RAISING CATTLE.

The raising of cattle for market, says Consul-General JOHN K. POLLARD, writing from Monterey to the Department of State, at Washington, is and always has been a profitable business in Mexico, consequent upon low-priced labor, low taxes, and large tracts of cheap land which are suitable for grazing only. Until recently no attempt has been made to improve the stock, but certain large cattle raisers have lately undertaken to do this, and steady improvement is henceforth expected. The demand created during the recent war between the United States and Spain and the higher prices which prevailed in the United States increased the price of cattle to such an extent that the northern States of Mexico became almost depopulated of live stock; so much so that it will require several years of natural increase to bring the number up to the ordinary demands. If so, this means a continuance of high prices for cattle in that section of the Republic. The importations of Mexican cattle into the United States, as stated by Mr. JOSEPH W. PARKER, of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States, was 6,831 in June, 1899, as against 7,277 in June, 1898.

PROPOSED STEAMSHIP LINE.

Some Kansas City capitalists having interests in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec have recently formed an association to establish a line of

steamers between the isthmus and some Gulf port of the United States connected directly with Kansas City by rail. Among these capitalists are several well-known Americans who are heavy stockholders in the "Mexican Gulf Agricultural Company" and the "Mexican Tropical Planters' Company," which associations own about 63,000 acres of land on the isthmus, where coffee, rubber, and bananas are raised. Their coffee plantations contain 2,000,000 trees, which will soon be yielding. Five thousand acres are planted in bananas. These companies expect to sell all their products in the markets of Kansas City and vicinity, and have decided, therefore, to purchase steamers to run between Coatzacoalcos and Galveston, Port Arthur, or New Orleans.

PROPOSED RAILWAY IN YUCATAN.

A lawyer of Campeche, Señor Don Luis Aznar Caño, has conceived the plan of constructing a railway line from the capital of his State (Campeche) to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, there to unite with the Inter-Oceanic Line at a station called "El Juile." The line will also have a branch running to the Guatemala frontier. This undertaking will redound largely to the benefit of the commerce and agriculture of the Yucatan peninsula, the products of which will find a good market in the republics of Central America. The subscription lists of this new enterprise are being rapidly filled.

THE PRODUCTION OF TEQUILA.

The maguey plant of Mexico has been aptly described by a native writer as one from which the common people secure "food, drink, house, and dress." Persons who have seen specimens of this plant in the botanical gardens of the United States would hardly recognize it on its native heaths, owing to its magnificent proportions. The trunk or stock of the maguey consists of a conical-shaped bulb some 12 inches in diameter by 20 in height, from the base of which numerous sinewy roots extend into the earth. This bulb is called the "corazón or heart," and somewhat resembles a huge pineapple. The inner portion of the heart consists of a juicy vegetable substance, partaking in flavor somewhat of the Swedish turnip, while from its outer rind a series of long, tapering blades radiate in much the same manner as the leaves of the date palm.

The cultivation of the maguey plant for the production of "tequila" is carried on most extensively in the State of Jalisco, in the western part of the Republic. Tequila is an alcoholic liquor, used both for medicinal purposes and as a beverage. In the manufacture of this liquid the blades of the plant are stripped off within 2 inches of the heart, which in turn is sliced off immediately above its roots. The heart of the maguey frequently weighs a quarter of a ton or more, according to "The Two Republics," of Mexico City, which necessitates its being divided into quarters to facilitate its transportation to the

distillery. This is accomplished on the backs of donkeys, the sections of one bulb usually constituting a load. At the distillery the heart is placed in a great oven, where it is thoroughly roasted. Then it is transferred to a separating machine and the juice extracted by pressure. Unlike "pulque," tequila is a perfectly clear liquid and improves in strength and quality with age. The profits and revenues derived from this product, while somewhat less than those of pulque, are still very large. The variety of maguey from which tequila is produced being somewhat smaller than that from which pulque is obtained, is grown at the rate of 2,500 to the acre. It can withstand any drought, and hence is raised on land where almost no other vegetation will grow. The largest tequila distilleries are located at the town of Tequila, 40 miles northwest of Guadalajara, each of which establishments pays the Government a monthly tax of $500 for the privilege of manufacturing the liquor.

PRESERVATION OF PULQUE.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN has many times referred to the great Mexican staple and drink "pulque," and in the July, 1899, number (page 31), mentioned the fact that a Mexican capitalist had asked for a patent on a method for preserving it. Late advices from the City of Mexico are to the effect that two Frenchmen, the Messrs. CHARLON, who have been established in business in that Republic for some years, have demonstrated that they have solved the problem of the preservation of this liquid. A joint-stock company, to be known as "El Maguey" with a capital of $50,000, has been formed in the City of Mexico to place the preserved pulque on the market. There seems to be no doubt that the discovery of the CHARLON Brothers will meet all the claims made for it. The preserved liquid has been submitted to chemical analysis and microscopic examination, and has been found to be pure and unadulterated, its stomachic qualities being even better than the fresh article, and it is confidently believed that the exploitation of the discovery will form another source of wealth for Mexico.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Important copper mines have been discovered near Ejutala and Niahuatlac, State of Oaxaca.

The well-known archæologist Professor NIVEN, who has been excavating in various parts of Mexico, reports a very rich gold discovery near Guerrero.

The shipments of rails and street cars from the United States to Mexico have been growing larger nearly every week, as have equipment and material for electric railroads.

The mint of Mexico will very soon issue a new 1-cent piece, which will be of the same size as the present 10-cent piece, but composed of a copper alloy.

The exports of henequén from the port of Progreso during the month

of May were 30,869 bales, of an estimated value of $1,307,604.49, Mexican currency.

The Mexican Government has contracted with SAMUEL HERMANOS, of New York, for the construction of four new light-houses and a light-house tender for the eastern coast of Yucatan.

The number of citizens of the United States settled in Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico, is 500, which is the most numerous foreign colony in this the second largest city in the Republic.

"The Mexican Sun," to be published three times a week, and to be devoted to the development of trade and industry between the United States and Mexico, will shortly appear in the city of Mexico.

The City of Mexico is being practically rebuilt, and building permits have been granted to a number in excess of any previous period in its municipal history. A movement is on foot to pave one hundred streets in the city with asphalt.

Stimulated by the privileges granted by the late decree relating to the establishment of new industries in the Republic of Mexico, a Mexican syndicate purposes forming in the country a bicycle and typewriter manufactory.

The Japanese Legation in the City of Mexico is actively engaged in the negotiations tending to commercial reciprocity between Mexico and the Empire of Japan. A plan will soon be presented to the Mexican Government which it is expected will add largely to the trade between the two nations.

An American citizen, who has lived for some years in Tampico, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and who is an electrical engineer, recently applied to the authorities of the State for exemption from taxation for a term of years on an electric-light and street-railway plant which he purposes establishing at the city named.

A citizen of the United States has lately applied to the Minister of Promotion of Mexico for a concession to establish an iron-safe manufactory. He is prepared to guarantee the investment of $250,000 as the working capital, by depositing with the National Bank of Mexico, on the signing of the concession, such sum as the Government may require.

There is a movement on foot in Matamoros, State of Tam ulipas, and the necessary steps have been taken to obtain from the Mexican Government authority to construct a railroad line from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Monterey. This line is to start from Brazos, Tex., will follow the United States frontier to a point in front of Matamoros, and will be prolonged to Monterey.

The remarkable increase in the custom-house receipts and stamp-tax collections in Mexico, and the general excellent condition of the country's finances and business interests, have induced the Equitable and the New York Life Insurance companies, of New York, to return to the Mexican field. Both of these companies in former years did a good business in the neighboring Republic, but about ten years ago they withdrew from the country.

The Governor of the State of Mexico, in the desire to provide that important section of the neighboring Republic with all the advancements of older nations, has commissioned Señor JUAN DE DIOS FERNÁNDEZ to visit New York and the principal cities of Europe, for the purpose of studying the systems employed in manual training schools and charitable institutions, so that like institutions in the State named may be raised to a like plane.

NICARAGUA.

THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER.

The increased demand for rubber in the world and the rapid development of the uses to which the article may be adapted in its refined state are gradually bringing about a revolution in the methods of collecting and curing the crude supply. Until within a few years all the rubber received at United States ports from the Central American countries was collected from trees growing wild in the forests. Such trees were plentiful enough for the Indians, who gathered the product only at such times as they needed supplies necessary for their sustenance. No one then thought of cultivating the tree, nor was it necessary, as the supply was deemed sufficient for the demand. But the partial exhaustion of the forest product made it apparent that something would have to be done to supplement the supply furnished by the Indians. The exports of crude rubber from Nicaragua in 1897, according to statistics obtained by the British Foreign Office at the time, amounted to 159,600 pounds, valued at $78,856—about 50 cents per pound—and the crop for 1898 was said to be larger in quantity and much greater in value, but no accurate statistics can be obtained.

Several citizens of the United States have located in Nicaragua during the last few years for the purpose of engaging in the cultivation of rubber. One of these pioneers in the business, Mr. G. C. COSSIT, recently returned to the United States, and reports that the prospects for a great increase in the production of rubber are very bright. From a statement given by Mr. COSSIT to the "New Orleans Picayune," July 14, many interesting facts are obtained. He states that "leading northward from Bluefields there is a chain of inland streams, having an average depth of 5 feet, which wind their way among low tropical islands to the base of the Cukira Hill. A creek follows the base of the mountains and gives excellent drainage. The land drained by this stream has been found to be exactly suited to the rubber plant, and is gradually being taken up by foreign investors. The work of clearing is probably the most expensive undertaking, but the wild trees encountered furnish nearly enough seeds for the whole plantation.

"The planter who wishes to open an estate applies for the land to the

agent of the Government (Jefe Publico) and pays $1 for each manzana (nearly 2 acres). The surveys are made by the Government at a moderate cost to the individual. The average cost of clearing a manzana is $15 gold, and about 100 manzanas on each plantation are usually cleared the first year. Some planters only clear a roadway wide enough to plant the young trees, while others have cleared away all the underbrush and are raising the trees from seeds. In the absence of accurate information and with no practical experience to guide them, the work of the pioneer rubber planter has been wholly of an experimental character. Mr. COSSIT has about 25 manzanas under cultivation, the trees being set out in rows 10 feet apart. Mr. HENRY WALDRON, of Canada, has an estate of 100 manzanas farther up the mountain, set out with trees raised from the seed. This planter has met with excellent success, losing only from 10 to 15 per cent of his original planting. Some of his trees are from 8 to 10 feet in height. Messrs. JONES and TOWNSEND, connected with the Manhattan Rubber Company, of New York, have a force of men engaged in clearing a tract of 500 manzanas and expect to have 1,000,000 trees planted. Besides these, there are a number of other smaller plantations containing from 800 to 1,800 trees each.

"A feature of the rubber-planting industry as yet undetermined is the age at which a tree may be tapped without injuring its productiveness. The general belief is that fully ten years is required to enable a tree to reach a diameter of 10 inches, which is the least size tapped, yet it has been demonstrated that trees grown in the open with plenty of sunlight grow much more rapidly than those that are shaded to and great extent. Then, too, cultivation and advantageous localities produce mature trees in six years.

"As yet planters are gathering but little rubber from cultivated trees, but they are obtaining quantities from the wild ones left standing. Upon its first tapping each tree will yield about 1 pound without injury, and as it increases in age the flow becomes greater, sometimes amounting to as much as 3 or 4 pounds. The planters expect that the effects of cultivation will be to increase the annual yield per tree.

"The method of curing the product is at present very crude, but even in this state Nicaraguan rubber brings a higher price than any other variety, excepting that from Para, Brazil."

It is the intention of the Nicaraguan planters to adopt the method employed in the Para districts and in the rubber regions of Bolivia, a full description of which is published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, 1897, page 902.

SHIPMENTS OF GOLD AND SILVER ORE.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" of July 15 contains the report of a correspondent in Nicaragua who says that Messrs. ALLEN & FULKS have made the first shipment of ore from their El Mico

mine to the Omaha and Grant Smelting Company at Denver, Colorado. This shipment of 16 sacks assays 12.05 ounces of gold and 13.6 ounces of silver per ton. The firm expects to make another and larger shipment within a short time.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CONSULS.

A press correspondent writing from Managua under date of June 30, 1899, says that the following persons have been named as Consuls from Nicaragua at the posts mentioned, and that they would start about July 16 for their destinations: Dr. PEDRO BERMÚDEZ, New York City; Dr. MANUEL MALDONADO, Hamburg; Don RAMON ROSTRAS, London; Don HECTOR S. TORRES, Paris; Don ROBERT BONE, Liverpool; Don LUIS COUSIN, San Francisco. As yet no appointment has been made to the New Orleans consulate. The appointees are all young men. Dr. BERMÚDEZ received a medical education in Philadelphia, and Señor COUSIN is a brother-in-law of President ZELAYA. In addition to their other duties, Nicaragua's consular representatives usually act as purchasing agents for their Government.

PARAGUAY.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

Mr. WILLIAM HARRISON, Vice-Consul for the United States at Asunción, writes the Department of State at Washington, under date of May 17, relative to the production of sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar. He says that the cane is being cultivated in Paraguay to a greater extent than ever before. Each stalk is about 2 inches in diameter and from 6 to 8 feet high. One ton of sugar cane will produce 35 to 40 gallons of juice, and each gallon of juice will net $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of sugar. The cane is of good variety and makes fine sugar and rum. There is only one sugar mill in the Republic, and as it can not supply the demand the importation of sugar is very large, most of it coming from France. The sugar made in the country sells at a very high price, and with mills similar to those of the United States, and with skilled labor, the quality could be greatly improved. Common labor is cheap, but skilled workmen are not procurable.

Mr. HARRISON then gives an estimate of the cost of a sugar plantation. For the first year the capital required is given at $20,240; for the second, $96,960, and for the third, $20,800, or a total of $138,000. This embraces everything, including 3 leagues of agricultural land, 8 miles of plantation railway, 2 engines and 50 trucks, a steam launch, wharf and barges, all the buildings, machinery, horses and other animals, carts, office expenses, freight, insurance, etc. He estimates that the mill and plantation will produce 40,000 arrobas (100,000 pounds) of

sugar, at $1.10—$44,000—and 6,000 demijohns of alcohol, at $3—$18,000—or a total of $62,000. From this must be deducted $22,800 working expenses (which he itemizes) and $27,544 interest, leaving a net profit of $11,650 at the end of the third year.

Mr. JOHN RUFFIN, the United States Consul at Asunción, adds to Mr. HARRISON'S report the following:

"The sugar mill (referred to above) has been subsidized by the Government through the Agricultural Bank to the amount of $260,000 paper. It is situated on Tebicuary River and the Paraguayan Central Railway, thus affording easy transportation. It is lighted by electricity and has invested capital to the amount of $1,306,500. A report issued by the sugar factory asserts that $100,000 (gold) worth of sugar is imported each year into the country. The company is in need of funds to conduct business, its capital seeming to have been spent in the erection and equipment of the buildings. A sugar enterprise would be profitable in Paraguay, because it would be almost without competition, and should the supply be greater than the demand, the juice can be utilized in making caña, the national drink of the country."

AN IMMIGRANT'S OBSERVATIONS.

Through the Department of State of the United States the Bureau of the American Republics has been furnished a copy of a letter forwarded by Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, Minister to Uruguay and Paraguay, which he thinks would be of interest to many persons who write him with reference to agricultural possibilities in Paraguay. The communication is from Mr. J. WAVRUNK, a citizen of the United States who formerly lived in the State of Wisconsin. He says:

"My residence in this country now extends over a period of eight months, having arrived here in August, 1898, and thus far myself and family have enjoyed the best of health. We have passed through the hot summer months with less discomfort than we ever did in Wisconsin. Though January and February are undeniably hot months, yet I believe the temperature here in Colonia Gonzalez has never risen above 96 degrees, and the nights are uniformly cool. There has been plenty of rain during all this time. Paraguay seldom suffers from drought, anyway. In short, I consider the climate one of the healthiest in the world and admirably suited to people from the Northern part of the United States. We very seldom hear of any one being sick, except perhaps an occasional case of "chuchu," a sort of mild fever, no worse than a cold.

"It would be a hard matter for me to say whether or not I should advise anyone from the United States to come here to engage in farming. While the country itself, with its soil, climate, timber, etc., is all that can be desired, yet it is undeveloped. There are no manufactories or markets to speak of, and the conditions are so vastly different from what they are at home that where some may like it very much, others

might not. I believe it all depends upon the future. Should emigration continue capital will surely flow in, and with commerce and railroads the country will be the finest on earth, and there will be no dearth of opportunities to make money at farming, stock raising, and other things. Then, also, the farmer could live better. As it is now, those things which the farmer and laborer in the United States consider necessities are here either luxuries or can not be obtained at all.

"For instance, not one colonist in ten has either milk, butter, or cheese to eat. Pork and lard are luxuries which only the older settlers who raise their own pigs can enjoy. A colonist can not afford wheat bread, except perhaps occasionally, and must depend upon corn bread instead. Sugar, coffee, and tea are all very dear. Most people drink *maté* (which is really very good and a good substitute for tea and coffee), sweetened or not, as they can afford. The farmer's wife here can not put up a lot of preserves, jams, etc., for the winter, for the reason that she can not afford to buy the sugar. On the other hand, beef is cheap and of remarkably good quality, and the staple food, *mandioca*, is a very fine vegetable, from which various good dishes can be prepared. It is a perfect substitute for potatoes, and to my notion far more delicious.

"In speaking as above, I simply state the conditions as they are in this colony, and have in view what the emigrant coming here with a few hundred dollars would have to expect. Of course, if one is willing to live plainly he need have no fear of want, and in due time his condition would certainly become better. It is comparatively easy to get a start, and the colonist that will put up with those things can lead a life of comparative ease and be perfectly independent.

"Then, again, the social life is different from what the American farmer has been accustomed to. The facilities for education are not very good. There is a public school where rudimentary instruction is given, but it can not be compared in efficiency to our district schools at home.

"The newcomer from the United States will be apt to find it rather hard at first, not being able to speak the language of the country; but nearly all nationalities are represented here, and he will have no difficulty in finding some one to whom he can talk, and the Spanish language is soon acquired. This colony contains 205 families, the greater portion being Germans.

"To repeat: Whether this country is a desirable field for emigration from the United States is, as I look at it, a question as to what the future will bring forth. Nature has lavished her gifts on Paraguay with a bountiful hand, and if man will only develop them this country can be made a paradise. For that we must wait, however.

"If a colony of twenty or thirty families should come together and settle in one place, the difficulties and discomforts which a single settler experiences would be very largely obviated."

PERU.

SKETCHES OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND OF THE FIRST AND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS-ELECT.

At the Presidential election in Peru, which took place in May last, Don EDUARDO LOPEZ DE ROMAÑA was elected President, to succeed Don NICOLÁS DE PIÉROLA, and Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA and Don FEDERICO BRESANI were elected First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively. The only candidate for the Presidency was Señor ROMAÑA. The newly elected officials will be inaugurated in September next.

Don EDUARDO LÓPEZ DE ROMAÑA was born in Arequipa on May 19, 1849. His parents were Don JUAN MANUEL LÓPEZ DE ROMAÑA and Señora JOSEFA ALVISURI BUSTAMANTE, members of the highest social circles of the city. He was 10 years of age when he was sent to England, to the celebrated Stonyhurst College. From this institution he went to the Royal Institute of Engineers at London, where he obtained the degree of civil engineer and became an honorary member of the institution. His professional knowledge was the cause of his being sent to Brazil by a syndicate which was building a railroad line in the mountains of that country. Of the 30 engineers sent there, 21 died, owing to the unhealthy climate and the rough work they were called upon to perform. Señor ROMAÑA then showed his hardy constitution, for he withstood the conditions of his surroundings for more than three years. Upon his return to Arequipa he devoted himself to the management of one of the plantations belonging to his family in the Tambo Valley. While thus engaged the war with Chile broke out, and Señor ROMAÑA was appointed commanding general of the division which operated on the coast as far as Mollendo, having under his command the whole Tambo Valley. He took an active part in the expedition which compelled the Chileans to reembark at Mollendo. Residing in Arequipa after the war, he was elected President of the Liberal Club of that city, and was most efficient in the reorganization of this body. He served three terms as the Director of Public Charities in Arequipa, through the votes of both Conservatives and Liberals. He was twice elected Municipal Alcade of Arequipa, but was compelled to resign, on the first occasion because he was engaged in the reorganization of the charities, and on the second because he was deeply interested in completing the work of bringing water from Yumina to Arequipa. After the revolution which triumphed on May 17, 1895, Señor ROMAÑA became a candidate for Deputy for the Province of Arequipa, and was unanimously elected. The Congress elected him First Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. When the Ministry of Public Works was created, the President designated him for this portfolio, the duties of which he conducted with devotion and skill.

Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA is less than 50 years of age and a lawyer, as

is also his younger brother and his father, who was a judge for many years. He has been a Deputy and Minister of Foreign Relations, having taken a more or less active part in politics for the past fifteen years. He belongs to the Civil party, in which figure persons of the highest social standing, and enjoys great distinction from this fact, as well as because of his talents and learning. His law office is one of the leading, if not the most prominent one in Peru.

Don FEDERICO BRESANI is a merchant of Lima, a prominent and distinguished man, who has belonged to the Civil party from its foundation, but he has only taken part in politics of late years. He has been Prefect of Lima and a Minister of Piérola.

BRITISH REPORT ON THE TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC.

In June, 1899, the British Government published, as No. 2298 of its series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, the annual reports of Mr. ALFRED ST. JOHN, chief British Consular Officer at Lima, and of the Consuls of Great Britain at Callao, Iquitos, Cerro de Pasco, Piura, Salaverry, Pacasmayo, Huanchaco, Pisco, Mollendo, and Arequipa, a resumé of which are here given.

Mr. ST. JOHN says that it has not been possible to ascertain the exact income and expenditures of the Republic for 1898 inasmuch as the full data had not, up to the time of his report, been received by the Peruvian Department of Finances, but that it would be fair to estimate that they were about equal, each amounting to £1,100,000 ($5,352,600). The values and destinations of the imports and exports for 1897, as given in the British report, correspond to the figures given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1898 (p. 431). In that year nearly one-half of the total trade of the Republic was with Great Britain, but "a change has occurred recently." Formerly nearly all the sugar produced was shipped to England, but in 1898 this trade was diverted, to a considerable extent to the United States, where more remunerative prices were obtained. The report says the measure adopted by the Peruvian Government for the introduction of a gold standard (see MONTHLY BULLETIN, February, 1899, p. 1398) continues to have the effect of maintaining the exchange at almost a fixed rate, but the expectation that the supply of gold coin will soon be such as to increase the existing stock sufficiently for all currency purposes has not been realized. The amount of gold coin at the Lima mint at the close of 1898 was £40,103 ($195,141), while it was estimated that there were about £150,000 ($729,900) in sovereigns deposited in the banks and in possession of the Republic. Those who formerly believed in the scheme are of the opinion that the influx of gold specie will continue steadily, and that, at no remote period, all transactions will be in gold coin.

In the way of public improvements, it is reported that a cart road is being constructed between Sicuani and the city of Cuzco, which will be 90 miles in length and will pass through the Provinces of Canchias,

Quispicanchis, and Cuzco. This road is about 5½ yards wide, level in most places, hard, and thoroughly well protected by dams and drains. It is completed as far as the village of Urcos, and four-wheeled wagons, with a capacity of 4 tons each, leave Sicuani and Urcos daily. When completed, the road will be controlled by "La Compañía de Transportes del Sur, Limitada," and the journey to the two extreme points will be made in two days. At Cusipata, the halfway station, a suitable hotel will be built for the accommodation of passengers. A steam launch carrying the mails to and from the Amazonian region is now running with considerable regularity to Port Burmudez on the Pichas River, and Iquitos on the Amazon. The telegraph system is being gradually extended, and at the end of the year 1898 there were 1,928 miles of wire in working order. A very fine and convenient building for the general post and telegraph office was completed in 1898, though it was commenced a great many years ago, and has cost a great deal of money.

The coffee crop in the Perené and Chanchamayo districts during the year was 2,700,000 pounds forwarded to Lima. It is believed that this output would have been more than doubled had there been a sufficient number of laborers to gather the crop. The producers are discouraged by the low prices received and the difficulties of transportation to the coast.

The population of the Province of Callao, according to the census of 1898, is 28,932, of whom 15,469 are males and 13,463 females. The foreigners number 2,918.

The report from Iquitos was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899 (p. 2176).

In Cerro de Pasco copper-ore mining is increasing. It is retarded to a great extent, however, by the limited means of transportation to the Central Railway at Oroya and Casabalca. At present about 800 tons per month are sent to these points for transshipment to Callao. The grades of ores continue fine, some of them containing as much as 45 per cent of copper. The cost of getting the ore from the mine banks is about 10 shillings per ton. Silver mining has declined to a great extent during the past year, as owners of the animals employed to carry ore to the various mills have found it more to their advantage to transport copper ore. The total amount produced in 1898 was 1,000,704 ounces, a decline from 1897 of 269,544 ounces, and from 1896 of 381,176 ounces.

In the Piura district the Vice-Consul reports that a considerable number of new oil wells were sunk during the year, and that the yield of good oil has been very much increased; also that a very decided improvement in the quality of kerosene manufactured is noticeable. It has been improved so much that little difficulty is experienced in finding a ready market for it. It is also reported that exports to the United States are steadily increasing. The exports in 1898, valued in United States currency, were: Goatskins, $198,780.27; raw cotton,

$151,705.72; ox hides, $15,219.64; straw hats, $1,666; cocoa, $416.50; coffee, $325.70; tobacco samples, $19; grand total, $368,132.83. The official value of goods imported direct to Salaverry amounted to £65,090 ($316,728). More than half of the imports were from Great Britain and but one-tenth from the United States. The value of the imports from the United States is given at 62,143 soles ($25,975.77). The imports from the United States included bicycles, machinery, electrical apparatus, and general merchandise.

The declared value of the quantity of goods exported amounted to £450,029 ($2,189,841). To the United States the exports were: Sugar, 11,036,463 kilos, valued at 1,196,269 soles; 43,205 kilos of minerals, valued at 18,214 soles; 920 kilos of coffee, valued at 299 soles; 92 kilos of cocoa, valued at 29 soles.

The year 1898 was not a good season for the production of sugar, and, although the area of cultivation had been considerably increased, the production shows a notable falling off. The quantity exported from Salaverry and Huanchaco in 1898 was 42,914,569 kilos, a decrease of 5,992,684 kilos. The exportation of rum and alcohol was 575,474 kilos in 1898, or a decrease from 1897 of 91,385 kilos. The increase in the exportation of cocoa in 1898 was 36,153 kilos, or a total of 258,418 kilos. The quantity of ore and sulphides exported was 239,707,600 kilos, valued at 105,681 soles, a decrease in number of kilos of 14,798,400, and an increase in valuation of 31,217 soles. The quantity of coffee shipped was 63,167 kilos, a decrease of 20,574 kilos. There was a falling off in the exportation of wool from 33,082 kilos in 1897 to 28,362 kilos in 1898. Cereals have been shipped to the amount of 237,587 kilos.

From Pacasmayo the report is made that the importations amounted to 403,091 soles, of which 27,298 soles were from the United States. The exports to all countries amounted to 851,217 soles, of which the United States received 227,515 soles.

Exports from Huanchaco to the United States were 152,055 kilos of sugar, valued at 16,630 soles. The Vice-Consul at Cuzco says that the trade with the United States is increasing steadily, and that there are now two lines of steamers trading between Cuzco and New York. The railway from the port of Tambo de Mora to Chincha Alta has been finished during the past year, the locomotives and rolling stock of the line having been supplied by the United States. The output of silver in this Department seems to be on the decline. Salt deposits are being very actively worked. A project for the manufacture of caustic soda in the Ica District is under consideration; the necessary raw material is to be found in large quantities.

From Mollendo the shipments during the past year to the port of New York have been 111,252 kilos of cocoa leaves, 23,256 kilos of antimony ores, 1,240 kilos of medical herbs, 230 kilos of coffee, 201 kilos of goat skins, and 174 kilos of sundries. Bolivian coin was also shipped

to the amount of $1,946.40, United States currency. The shipments of cinchona, or Peruvian bark, from this port increased eightfold. Some half dozen mines, supposed to contain gold, have been taken up in the vicinity of this port during the past year. A tramway up the Tambo Valley is proposed, and a branch railway from Vitor Station on the road to Arequipa is being built to run into and through the valley of Vitor, a very rich crop-growing district, where wines and spirits are made in large quantities. A cotton factory has been erected at Haico, and a new industry has been established at the mineral bath of Yura. The waters from the mineral wells at this point are being bottled and exported. A soap factory has also been established and is doing moderately well.

From Arequipa the Vice-Consul reports that the price of wool during the year was, on an average, about 32 soles per 100 pounds. The quantity shipped was 4,453,250 pounds, valued at 1,425,040 soles. In 1897 the exports were 4,702,470 pounds, valued at 1,880,988 soles. This was not all the product, but the remainder is being held with the hope of obtaining a higher price in 1899. The exports of vicuña wool or hair were 4,240 pounds, bringing an average of 80 cents per pound. The shipments of cocoa leaves (principally to Hamburg) have amounted to 617,000 pounds. Borate of lime to the amount of 15,493,900 pounds, worth $24.33 per ton, or a little more than 1 cent per pound, was shipped from this district through the port of Mollendo. The number of hides shipped was 34,029, averaging about 4 soles each. A large proportion of these came from Bolivia. In addition to the items above enumerated, there were shipments of silver, copper and lead ores, gold dust, bar silver, and coffee. The bulk of the gold dust was sent to Lima for coinage.

THE OROYA AND CERRO DE PASCO RAILROAD.

Mr. ERNEST THORNDYKE has signed a contract with the Government of Peru for the construction of a railroad between Oroya and Cerro de Pasco, which will place this great mineral region in direct and rapid communication with the port of Callao. Mr. THORNDYKE has deposited as a guaranty for the faithful performance of the contract the sum of 300,000 soles in bonds of the Internal Debt. The road is to be finished in 1903, when the exports in minerals will largely increase, due to traffic facilities. This is the first case of a work of this nature being undertaken in Peru with capital furnished by private parties and without any aid from the Public Treasury. This railroad was projected more than thirty years ago, when Peru was enjoying its greatest prosperity; but it has not been possible to initiate the work until now, when it comes to give testimony of the economic progress of the country in late years, growing out of the development of its resources. The decree of the Government for the construction of this railway line was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, pp. 2171–73.

RAILWAYS ADVANTAGEOUS TO MINING.

According to an article in the "Courrier du Pérou" of June 8, 1899, the Peruvian Government addressed a communication through its Minister of Fomento (Promotion) to the National Mining Company, asking whether it would not be more advantageous to establish smelting furnaces instead of building the proposed railroad from Oroya to Cerro de Pasco, to which the company replied, in part:

"The five smelting furnaces which exist actually being private property and destined in consequence to the use of certain mines, the greater part of the miners concentrate their operations to exporting ore, and owing to the difficulties of transportation, and especially on account of the exorbitant prices demanded, they can now only handle those of high grade. Because of this the actual production of ores for export, the standard varying between 30 and 44 per cent, is estimated at 1,500 metric tons per month. As to the ores for use in the smelting furnaces, of which the standard varies between 18 and 30 per cent, the monthly average is about 700 tons."

The company also stated:

"We can positively assure you that the quantity of ores of a standard of 20 per cent and upward in sight in the mines under development is fabulous. It is, therefore, self-evident that if there existed furnaces on a large scale, with a railroad from Cerro de Pasco to Oroya and Casapalca, the monthly production would almost immediately rise to 4,000 or 5,000 metric tons.

"This company believes that all that is necessary to assure the prosperity of the mineral basin of Cerro de Pasco is the construction of the contemplated railroad."

In regard to the production of coal, the managers of the company say that up to the present time the mines have not been seriously examined, and consequently it would be well for the Government to appoint a commission to thoroughly investigate them. "According to the opinions of eminent geologists there is an abundance of coal of good quality."

This report of the National Mining Company, in response to the inquiry of the Government, was dated April 23, 1899, and on May 5 the Government called for proposals for the construction of the railroad, the conditions, etc., of which were published in detail in the June BULLETIN, page 2171–73.

THE MINING INDUSTRY.

Mining in Peru is one of the chief industries of the country, as it offers an inexhaustible field for the energetic capitalist, whether native or foreign. According to a recent number of the "Nouveau Monde," mineral deposits are found all over the country, such as gold, silver, coal, and petroleum wells, which in the aggregate form a most impor-

tant source of wealth. From data recently published it appears that the number of mines in working condition and mining claims recorded amounts to 2,314. These figures, however, do not give the exact number of mines found in Peru, as not a day passes without a new discovery.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The estimated revenues from all sources of Peru for the year 1899 are £1,185,264 5s. 52d.

The bourse of Lima has named delegates to represent it at the National Export Exposition and International Commercial Congress, to be held at Philadelphia in October next. They are Messrs. A. G. HETHERINGTON and J. MESTERN.

It is announced that a deposit of native sulphur, which upon analysis has yielded 75.945 per cent of the article, has been discovered in the department of Piura. The mineral contains carbonate and sulphate of lime and of soda. In this regard "Le Courrier du Pérou" says: "We do not know when Peru will come to know all her natural riches; it seems to us that she never will."

SALVADOR.

RECENT TARIFF DECREE.

Mr. JOHN JENKINS, Consul for the United States at San Salvador, under date of June 11, 1899, forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a translation of the recent decrees of Salvador with reference to the tariff. The decree of April 28, 1899, reads as follows:

"The National Assembly of the Republic of Salvador, considering that in order to protect the industry of the country it is necessary to make some alterations to the tariff of custom-house duties (tarifa de aforos) now in force, using the faculties granted by the constitution, decrees:

"The tariff now in force is hereby altered in the following terms:

	Pesos.	U. S. currency.
Cotton, in drills of every description.....per kilogram..	0.75 =	$0.332
Cotton, in stuffs (as mantadril), white or colored, striped or checked, per kilogram.....	.75 =	.332
Cotton, in towels, bedclothes, napkins, tablecloth or stuffs therefor, per kilogram.....	.60 =	.265
Linen, pure or mixed, in white or colored drills .....per kilogram..	.60 =	.265

"This decree will come into legal force on the day of publication."

The following is the decree of May 26, 1899:

"The President of the Republic of Salvador, considering that it is to the interest of the Republic to facilitate the importation of raw

materials employed in the industries of the country and to tax the introduction of those produced or manufactured therein, decrees:

"ARTICLE I. The introduction of the following articles will be free of duties and taxes:

"Manure; cotton, raw, white or colored, for weaving or in yarn; iron vessels for balsam; filters and distillers of every description; scientific instruments of every description; weaving frames of every description; printing and lithographic inks; prepared chalk for use in schools.

"ART. II. There will be a 50 per cent reduction of the duties on the following articles:

"Steel in bars, sheets, or plates; sulphur in pieces; cotton tape, plain or twilled, white or colored, for shoemakers and saddlers, and tape commonly called 'de castilla;' tar of all kinds; empty common bottles and demijohns; whalebone, finished or raw; buttons of mother-of-pearl, silk, wool, or of any description not specified; copper hooks and eyes of every description; copper and brass in bars and sheets; glue of every kind; cork in all forms; tanned leather, dressed sheepskin, morocco or chamois leather for shoes, upper leather, and any other kind of skins, dressed and unvarnished, not specified; elastic for shoes or other uses; rushes, straw, and palm for furniture; thermometers and test tubes for liquors; cardboard for bookbinding, lithography, photography, or any other industrial use; paper for making flowers; grind or whet stones, for sharpening razors or tools; ramie, in thread or raw; silk, twisted or raw, and every kind of silk thread, on spools or cardboard, and silken network for sieves; soda, or caustic potash, for use in industry; poison for tanning skins.

"ART. III. A 50 per cent surtax will be charged on the following articles:

"Cotton bedclothes, towels, cloaks, hammocks, napkins, and tablecloths; cotton lace, cloth, and embroidery; cotton shawls, and stuffs to make them with; pillows and mattresses of feathers, wool, bristles, or any other material; bitters; plows, machetes, and cutlasses, to be used for work; coffeepots, napkin rings, tumblers, candlesticks (*candeleros y palmatorias*), of tin; manufactures in tortoise shell of every description; preserved meats and shellfish; wax candles; locks and keys for doors; candies and preserves; envelopes; manufactures in leather, shoes, leggings, boots, belts, with or without trimming or ornaments of gold or silver, including those of patent leather, patent or common leather straps of every description, saddles, stirrup leathers, harnesses, headstalls, halters, cruppers, pistol pockets, reins, powder flasks, cases, gear of leather, rugs, hides, pelts, and, in general, any article manufactured of tanned or patent leather; sweets; iron spurs; artificial flowers; flowers of any kind; fireworks; bridles of any kind for horses; sirups of any kind, without alcohol; furniture of wood, with or without parts of marble of any description (wood prepared in pieces for furniture will be considered as furniture and taxed as such); iron daggers and poniards, picks (*picos*), axes, and pieces for connecting saddle bows; implements or articles for domestic use of tin; combs of every description of tortoise shell; bunches of feathers prepared as dusters; ready-made suits of any material; tallow candles; silk, pure or mixed, in shawls, capes, waists, and jackets; cheese and butter; vinegar.

"ART. IV. This decree will be applied on all kinds of goods coming into the Republic from the 1st of next September."

SANTO DOMINGO.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT HEUREAUX.

General ULISES HEUREAUX, President of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, was assassinated at Moca, a town about 40 miles south of Puerto Plata, on July 26, 1899. The President was about to leave for Santiago when he was killed, while seated under the gallery of a house in the Rue Colon talking to friends. One bullet struck the heart of the President, killing him instantly, and the other killed an old man by his side, the deed being done so quickly that those present were not able to interfere in time to prevent it. The Vice-President of the Republic, General WENCESLAO FIGUERO, immediately assumed the Presidential functions.

ULISES HEUREAUX was born in Puerto Plata, on the west coast of Santo Domingo, in 1846. He entered the military service when he was 16 years old, as a private, but was soon appointed commandant in the District of Puerto Plata. He fought in the war with Spain from 1868 to 1874, was exiled for political reasons twice, and spent two years in private life. In 1878 he took command to put down a Spanish uprising, was wounded a number of times, and narrowly escaped assassination. In 1882 he was elected President of the Republic as the successor of FERNANDO A. MERINO, and was reelected four times, the last time in 1898. In 1894 he foiled a desperate effort to kill him led by a man named BOBADILLA.

THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

"El Teléfono," of Santo Domingo, of a recent date, has a leading article relating to the agriculture of the island, which, reviewing the supply of domestic products in the Hamburg market, deprecates the fact that they always demand the lowest price in European markets, and asks to what such conditions are due, answering the question in this wise: "To many causes. Agricultural education, in the first place, does not exist in this country. Our small farmers, ignorant of the most rudimentary rules of the agricultural industries, almost totally unacquainted with the simplest farming implements, sow and reap perfunctorily, as did our ancestors fifty years ago." The article states that capital, which is meagre, is invested in trade and manufacturing, and not in agriculture, an inexhaustible source of wealth, and the greater part of the plantations are small plots of ground, whose proprietors are generally persons with little capital. "It is indispensable," continues the article, "that our Government shall give its principal attention to the transcendental subject of our agricultural development and progress. We are called upon to be, rather than a manufacturing or commercial people, an agricultural people. Our civilization, our advancement, must be the result, aside from public instruction, of agri-

culture. Land is the first productive element of wealth, the greatest element. And since land is the prime productive element of wealth, let us bend all our efforts to make the land productive; and since the agricultural industry is above all other industries, let us found institutions of agricultural industry, without prejudice to the institutions which manufacture and commerce may require. * * * To labor for the progress of our agriculture is to labor for the general advancement of the country."

DUTIES PAYABLE IN GOLD.

The Department of State at Washington has received a report from Mr. CAMPBELL L. MAXWELL, Consul-General for the United States, dated Santo Domingo, June 24, 1899, to the effect that the Dominican Congress has passed an act which requires the import duties to be paid in United States gold; or, otherwise, in the current money of the Republic, $6 of which shall be considered to be equal to $1 gold. The former rate was $2 for $1 gold. The act was to have taken effect July 1, 1899.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement, from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, O. P. AUSTIN, Chief, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of June, 1899, corrected to July 27, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the previous year; also for the twelve months ending June 30, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for June, for example, are not published until some time in July.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche*)—				
Mexico	$222	$1,515	$21,922	$22,853
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	20,377	15,576	200,728	234,884

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao*):				
Central America				$8,597
Brazil	$3,731	$13,824	$173,846	646,756
Other South America	144,390	131,802	1,203,376	1,378,604
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	266,467	441,683	4,459,183	5,368,711
Mexico	163,745	235,340	3,599,392	2,686,248
Brazil	2,402,725	2,909,139	40,956,963	35,253,010
Other South America	722,997	680,108	9,276,212	7,217,590
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	2,118	3,302	123,771	136,776
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequén; Henequen; Hennequen*)—				
Mexico	1,005,641	540,970	5,104,228	8,902,213
Philippine Islands	322,199	60,692	3,092,285	3,394,338
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	199,379	229,290	1,569,749	1,816,843
South America	8,750	146,226	103,692	732,431
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	18	2,454	134,672	139,644
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America	24,125	19,443	62,973	151,704
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	15,915	40,242	193,874	287,557
Mexico	119,584	123,216	1,698,574	1,879,750
South America	1,065,940	1,449,873	9,178,328	10,447,178
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	37,006	71,186	419,742	855,145
Mexico	8,063	15,907	41,901	142,887
Brazil	517,124	872,370	14,980,875	16,999,345
Other South America	49,384	68,343	622,641	951,737
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc.; plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	79,984	139,016	1,601,458	1,908,111
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior al No. 16 de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	38,372	54,988	195,149	158,639
Mexico	6,466	10,247	44,598	52,976
Cuba	221,216	2,606,213	9,828,607	16,412,088
Brazil	192,619	----------	2,317,987	810,276
Other South America	309,874	252,577	3,940,648	5,341,713
Hawaiian Islands	2,201,268	2,903,686	16,729,752	17,287,683
Philippine Islands	66,770	----------	381,279	969,323
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	28,603	1,171	259,279	229,554
Cuba	26,073	483,604	2,848,524	4,964,529
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	2,602	5,004	141,724	369,126
Mexico	28,986	70,246	309,493	413,222
Cuba	----------	10,624	1,766	33,671
South America	30,112	1,937	71,569	16,696
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	1,845	198,419	841,377	478,180
Class 2 (combing)	18,813	----------	28,411	106
Class 3 (carpet)	194,238	131,262	862,321	459,429

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$403	$166	$14,910	$6,244
Mexico	10,076	20,603	124,368	222,476
Santo Domingo	23	144	1,079	735
Cuba	.....	11,412	7,817	43,104
Porto Rico	.....	716	2,504	2,955
Argentina	15,249	225,785	377,054	1,679,019
Brazil	789	803	24,755	34,130
Colombia	1,047	5	4,843	1,540
Other South America	20,253	11,379	196,054	284,204
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	.....	.....	7,058	3,485
Mexico	9,700	8,050	78,400	98,920
South America	250	.....	7,462	5,193
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	45	26,156	44,487	87,642
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	750	200	12,795	6,228
Mexico	7,425	3,795	77,090	81,849
South America	.....	720	5,700	4,559
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	238	33	9,748	11,525
South America	2,095	850	12,409	8,620
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	433	684	34,264	41,103
Mexico	5,858	1,943	125,006	57,819
Santo Domingo	95	1,522	552	11,994
Cuba	.....	6,652	22,506	45,743
Porto Rico	.....	1,946	1,332	16,831
Argentina	1,422	2,926	26,614	20,971
Brazil	1,958	1,549	153,770	45,536
Colombia	559	1,635	17,484	48,695
Other South America	5,634	5,209	43,558	123,050
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	4,576	2,236	70,965	36,313
Mexico	1,153	15,643	43,557	63,412
Santo Domingo	.....	10	166	266
Cuba	.....	91,217	415,803	293,507
Porto Rico	.....	.....	80	63
South America	1,343	1,995	38,186	23,122
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	86,881	65,672	1,183,182	986,717
Mexico	13,300	18,356	86,848	138,979
Santo Domingo	48,182	13,716	197,338	146,106
Cuba	.....	190,252	1,160,736	1,719,225
Porto Rico	.....	48,452	450,493	492,664
Brazil	229,701	295,696	3,240,362	3,399,027
Colombia	54,826	53,979	541,147	425,904
Other South America	157,329	154,090	1,740,204	1,410,485
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	4,015	4,113	43,808	34,323
Mexico	.....	2	41	5,145
South America	76,043	285	1,705,171	191,211
Carriages, cars, etc, and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	3,226	393	45,149	36,695
Mexico	25,548	94,712	508,678	510,247
Santo Domingo	737	254	24,111	21,941
Cuba	.....	13,991	22,194	131,211
Porto Rico	.....	1,160	5,821	6,171
Argentina	36,026	20,026	533,306	533,931
Brazil	30,786	1,280	564,773	105,583
Colombia	3,991	1,841	42,029	25,801
Other South America	2,451	2,107	79,934	51,531

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Cycles and parts of (*Bicicios y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties*):				
Central America	$934	$728	$8,267	$6,330
Mexico	8,046	2,219	68,022	48,301
Santo Domingo	37	----	1,171	253
Cuba	----	7,583	9,214	22,614
Porto Rico	----	223	3,359	2,912
Argentina	9,600	34,737	90,229	238,788
Brazil	9,633	3,040	98,482	55,046
Colombia	653	1,040	15,684	9,328
Other South America	2,592	4,531	48,966	54,441
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	75	167	6,998	2,757
Mexico	1,443	2,690	20,128	28,008
Argentina	3,150	4,552	28,065	26,616
Brazil	2,205	3,387	40,898	67,745
Other South America	4,873	8,632	85,040	93,532
Coal (*Carbón; Carvão; Charbon*):				
Central America	200	990	19,335	13,104
Mexico	121,650	104,372	974,040	1,235,265
Santo Domingo	559	1,808	11,288	12,827
Cuba	----	56,655	464,888	685,297
Porto Rico	----	----	21,014	45,098
Brazil	19,182	822	93,778	150,254
Colombia	5,850	9,356	38,284	43,815
Other South America	2,125	732	20,425	162,475
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	1,113	12,097	22,583	38,800
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	9,300	4,064	1,321,473	1,043,473
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	40,583	78,420	396,510	567,514
Mexico	36,079	31,810	415,910	481,569
Santo Domingo	28,973	45,956	120,167	198,893
Cuba	----	95,892	12,163	447,839
Porto Rico	----	64,638	2,206	169,057
Argentina	16,877	22,190	181,868	195,624
Brazil	80,474	49,071	565,921	545,545
Colombia	25,806	53,047	281,803	392,343
Other South America	124,462	80,678	1,126,871	1,374,117
Wearing apparel (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	16,547	32,717	213,563	232,896
Mexico	43,432	38,487	334,651	401,962
Santo Domingo	596	1,240	18,491	26,205
Cuba	----	14,286	11,715	112,580
Porto Rico	----	5,751	1,678	28,263
Argentina	4,261	2,872	34,726	65,484
Brazil	4,603	2,098	50,828	41,657
Colombia	4,713	6,116	45,364	46,793
Other South America	2,619	4,602	34,810	52,404
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	1,823	2,284	35,716	27,324
Mexico	5,723	3,978	58,513	75,920
Santo Domingo	47	----	1,394	1,769
Cuba	----	5,513	38,175	64,683
Porto Rico	----	585	2,348	4,816
Argentina	1,135	1,120	9,761	17,202
Brazil	906	687	11,843	17,208
Colombia	457	1,127	10,189	8,749
Other South America	1,040	794	24,220	22,164
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	----	----	----	----
Mexico	370	550	2,676	2,606

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	$2,779	$3,232	$58,711	$80,133
Mexico	28,621	37,094	287,370	427,041
Argentina	5,148	36,701	109,696	247,062
Brazil	3,904	6,646	88,233	113,981
Other South America	6,770	10,974	123,800	120,951
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	250	1,000	11,074	34,627
Mexico	56,637	89,945	561,151	587,589
South America	46,432	2,300	207,015	249,080
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras, e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies, et outils*)—				
Central America	6,174	6,656	82,462	82,480
Mexico	60,705	37,340	461,532	358,213
Santo Domingo	1,297	546	13,197	11,072
Cuba	.....	38,279	56,961	262,379
Porto Rico	.....	4,492	9,439	18,780
Argentina	18,444	33,514	147,958	232,579
Brazil	12,428	21,855	160,884	225,191
Colombia	9,452	10,956	90,309	108,758
Other South America	14,110	15,112	205,323	234,059
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	1,706	2,152	30,312	20,312
Mexico	9,024	13,601	197,692	270,592
Santo Domingo	46	127	1,282	2,373
Cuba	.....	4,121	2,785	12,323
Porto Rico	.....	1,607	3,120	4,086
Argentina	1,402	24,377	77,188	143,893
Brazil	11,864	11,449	95,966	112,398
Colombia	7,862	8,681	82,359	69,374
Other South America	9,003	8,288	101,289	127,299
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	40	275	2,360	2,440
Mexico	3,692	5,920	28,975	45,824
Santo Domingo	.....	20	90	208
Cuba	.....	1,021	1,457	19,769
Porto Rico	.....	283	65	4,229
Argentina	4,015	1,096	18,187	31,164
Brazil	15	650	4,945	6,135
Colombia	145	286	4,228	3,942
Other South America	885	2,646	14,652	25,981
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	431	56	4,713	10,278
Mexico	711	100	9,310	9,872
Santo Domingo	.....	225	569	1,759
Cuba	.....	5,746	2,298	14,828
Porto Rico	.....	1,670	1,394	8,843
Argentina	.....	2,388	4,360	34,443
Brazil	2,833	13,182	54,022	53,913
Colombia	1,582	550	4,133	3,781
Other South America	466	4,147	13,288	32,033
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	5,851	11,678	88,907	106,554
Mexico	17,837	24,103	87,669	212,245
Colombia	4,315	4,871	41,430	34,231
Other South America	2,970	710	28,879	36,562

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	$990	$1,100	$15,459	$13,924
Mexico	861	847	10,212	8,924
Santo Domingo	639	46	6,156	3,760
Cuba	.....	629	7,543	9,032
Porto Rico	.....	77	814	1,281
Argentina	22,841	1,205	95,161	74,242
Brazil	12,454	7,350	194,409	220,213
Colombia	2,060	278	13,102	12,517
Other South America	10,470	4,328	95,878	80,540
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*):				
Central America	217	828	3,029	4,181
Mexico	668	374	3,626	4,393
Santo Domingo	44	110	491	627
Cuba	.....	4,686	15,352	35,371
Porto Rico	.....	509	1,648	4,345
Argentina	18,841	21,539	129,506	55,785
Brazil	12,459	4,543	74,148	51,791
Colombia	473	426	4,513	6,738
Other South America	14,488	7,602	61,934	47,859
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crús; Huiles minérales, brutes*):				
Mexico	81	59,838	317,514	395,386
Cuba	.....	25,913	207,649	192,686
Porto Rico	.....	12,512	51,808	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos mineraes, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	6,363	9,739	112,834	131,333
Mexico	16,257	24,590	184,088	191,480
Santo Domingo	267	964	50,051	39,055
Cuba	.....	4,625	31,358	125,156
Porto Rico	.....	4,838	22,677	61,015
Argentina	104,599	124,172	1,007,498	797,604
Brazil	189,998	79,073	1,532,231	1,499,118
Colombia	11,278	20,351	103,145	129,600
Other South America	180,191	76,533	967,067	890,460
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	154	361	3,080	5,114
Mexico	7,202	73,435	328,768	491,114
Santo Domingo	7,138	4,013	27,824	30,627
Cuba	.....	3,667	2,774	20,395
Argentina	1,759	3,716	5,947	29,752
Brazil	10,728	11,452	237,065	196,501
Other South America	13,678	9,180	104,844	97,897
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	2,628	2,896	21,694	31,935
Mexico	10,632	20,843	157,863	241,110
Brazil	844	2,112	10,968	13,583
Other South America	.....	1,537	5,703	7,994
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	2,467	1,370	28,579	20,148
Mexico	996	2,422	14,237	19,570
Santo Domingo	7	.....	40	117
Cuba	.....	470	64,112	13,698
Argentina	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brazil	136	93	549	1,445
Colombia	368	552	6,623	5,073
Other South America	2,936	263	14,492	11,861
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	1,171	4,737	39,078	35,858
Mexico	.....	45	492	625

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled—Continued.				
Santo Domingo	$1,075	$1,098	$2,718	$4,875
Cuba	----------	744	13,720	32,014
Porto Rico	----------	152	859	1,227
Brazil	125	44	1,237	2,530
Colombia	1,740	2,192	13,240	14,713
Other South America	24,300	14,093	175,027	174,498
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	7,800	7,783	95,679	92,126
Mexico	1,883	1,986	24,364	33,575
Santo Domingo	4,178	18	30,338	15,840
Cuba	----------	23	13,231	19,160
Porto Rico	----------	200	287	547
Brazil	----------	990	25,070	37,778
Colombia	55	2,346	16,230	14,408
Other South America	8,057	508	20,033	33,762
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	1,716	1,835	16,692	17,914
Mexico	930	2,059	9,804	17,277
Santo Domingo	801	320	2,213	1,903
Cuba	----------	95,175	672,008	643,381
Porto Rico	----------	7,491	33,013	74,283
Brazil	11,176	7,340	508,171	415,745
Colombia	93	308	1,366	1,862
Other South America	3,257	382	29,223	16,758
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	1,914	2,495	28,291	23,260
Mexico	3,543	1,974	23,790	30,956
Santo Domingo	1,316	545	6,716	7,483
Cuba	----------	72,609	365,243	559,584
Porto Rico	----------	437	50,941	11,641
Brazil	66	176	3,262	3,649
Colombia	981	2,642	13,805	16,507
Other South America	5,883	7,159	84,268	84,837
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	4,360	6,402	70,438	63,395
Santo Domingo	1,870	1,165	5,338	5,949
Cuba	----------	4,289	14,103	39,466
Porto Rico	----------	16,511	176,219	173,151
Brazil	90	1,488	2,045	7,368
Other South America	10,258	21,690	120,436	105,119
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	20,059	13,186	156,161	158,967
Mexico	7,440	14,509	177,525	169,689
Santo Domingo	10,653	4,692	29,682	27,943
Cuba	----------	189,016	1,027,657	1,462,604
Porto Rico	----------	27,840	190,630	256,372
Argentina	179	153	3,133	3,636
Brazil	31,672	101,013	973,990	1,219,882
Colombia	10,258	21,690	120,436	105,119
Other South America	71,763	59,425	681,023	628,355
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	248	190	1,254	2,514
Mexico	72	----------	961	731
Colombia	1,110	2,153	8,400	11,225
Other South America	1,122	3,828	15,855	23,913
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Central America	3,817	4,415	48,631	46,637
Mexico	4,381	3,000	43,720	49,767
Santo Domingo	1,760	910	7,911	11,154
Cuba	----------	5,157	8,087	99,497
Porto Rico	----------	431	2,407	8,169
Brazil	5,318	20,127	92,191	177,514
Colombia	854	1,733	19,672	15,127
Other South America	11,593	17,130	91,622	141,219
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	1,112	1,821	14,436	19,889
Mexico	702	471	3,984	4,928

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products – Continued.				
Cheese—Continued.				
Santo Domingo	.....	$3,137	$25,888	$76,884
Cuba	.....	3,019	1,535	27,404
Porto Rico	.....	.....	257	638
Brazil	$643	728	11,082	7,950
Colombia	1,211	1,017	17,079	13,362
Seeds (*Semillas; Sementes; Semence*):				
Central America	367	428	5,387	4,875
Mexico	393	330	29,472	15,724
Santo Domingo	122	114	864	320
Cuba	.....	664	2,612	4,190
Porto Rico	.....	42	19	539
Argentina	.....	3,048	368	10,842
Brazil	.....	50	858	1,085
Colombia	201	242	1,733	1,594
Other South America	339	152	2,345	2,440
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	2,920	1,446	50,408	19,047
Mexico	5,181	24,856	18,722	50,104
Santo Domingo	114	90	1,618	1,206
Colombia	1,302	1,718	26,815	15,316
Other South America	63	286	5,204	2,328
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	928	1,254	30,777	24,629
Mexico	6,073	12,275	135,636	143,786
Argentina	7,880	2,252	12,984	24,677
Colombia	839	964	8,057	6,449
Other South America	10,386	10,343	100,298	97,663
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué*):				
Central America	5,545	988	49,571	51,694
Mexico	8,189	2,016	25,914	20,329
Cuba	.....	14,475	146,292	160,547
Argentina	18	2,028	2,362	6,204
Brazil	.....	.....	560	500
Colombia	636	1,281	3,748	6,663
Other South America	8,837	4,561	82,015	84,655
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	642	1,600	49,526	28,988
Mexico	64,800	6,473	296,589	257,918
Cuba	.....	7,216	14,863	43,723
Argentina	4,643	607	11,728	18,706
Brazil	.....	.....	7,278	4,524
Colombia	.....	258	23,737	22,445
Other South America	1,457	.....	50,997	26,192
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construccion*):				
Central America	3,190	3,875	38,469	60,506
Mexico	69,772	85,083	843,300	797,500
Santo Domingo	1,720	3,538	38,090	34,174
Cuba	.....	35,931	258,076	730,964
Porto Rico	.....	5,016	51,129	61,543
Argentina	46,365	78,059	876,362	990,730
Brazil	36,213	52,682	629,796	443,622
Colombia	2,561	4,436	56,838	49,736
Other South America	54,267	48,972	516,490	521,315
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	3,070	4,113	74,586	37,489
Mexico	14,094	20,547	157,095	241,771
Santo Domingo	991	1,808	11,657	9,042
Cuba	.....	13,776	24,910	92,248
Porto Rico	.....	4,461	6,041	23,914
Argentina	2,257	17,222	62,224	77,157
Brazil	937	3,345	36,010	32,819
Colombia	2,027	3,608	33,410	29,969
Other South America	5,903	1,978	75,962	66,555

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1899.

The detailed tables of the imports and exports of the United States in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, were completed and a summary given to the public by the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department at Washington on July 27. The tables contained in this summary, compared with the figures for the previous year, exhibit some interesting facts. The value of the imports increased more than $81,000,000, while the value of the exports decreased over $4,000,000. According to class the imports for 1898 and 1899 were divided as follows:

IMPORTS.

	1898.	1899.
Articles of food and live animals	$181, 205, 834	$211, 869, 918
Articles in a crude condition which enter into the various processes of domestic industry	201, 428, 375	221, 998, 377
Articles wholly or partially manufactured for use as material in the manufactures and mechanics arts	58, 584, 559	60, 712, 518
Articles manufactured ready for consumption	97, 382, 404	108, 621, 406
Articles of voluntary use, luxuries, etc	77, 448, 472	93, 914, 635
Total imports	616, 049, 654	697, 116, 854
Per cent of free	47. 3	43. 07
Duties collected	$149, 819, 594	$206, 507, 812
Foreign goods remaining in warehouse	$37, 726, 964	$35, 956, 021

EXPORTS.

Products of agriculture	$853, 683, 570	$784, 999, 009
Products of manufacture	290, 697, 354	338, 667, 794
Products of mining	19, 410, 707	28, 832, 547
Products of the fisheries	5, 435, 483	6, 025, 446
Miscellaneous	3, 164, 628	3, 281, 134
Total domestic exports	1, 210, 291, 913	1, 204, 123, 134
Foreign goods reexported	21, 190, 417	23, 082, 285
Total exports	1, 231, 482, 330	1, 227, 205, 419

The imports and exports by grand divisions were as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europe	$305, 933, 691	$353, 885, 064	$973, 806, 245	$936, 781, 169
North America	91, 376, 807	112, 133, 871	139, 627, 841	157, 931, 409
South America	92, 091, 694	86, 576, 020	33, 821, 701	35, 660, 932
Asia	92, 594, 593	107, 081, 421	44, 707, 791	48, 360, 161
Oceanica	26, 859, 230	26, 997, 508	22, 003, 022	29, 874, 993
Africa	7, 193, 639	10, 442, 970	17, 515, 730	18, 594, 424

With reference to countries, the imports and exports for "North America" were as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
British North America	$32,242,601	$31,586,332	$84,889,819	$89,573,609
Bermuda	459,282	494,812	986,915	1,065,388
British West Indies	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,386,240	8,751,817
British Honduras	171,920	198,203	576,111	499,839
Total British	43,505,990	46,429,829	94,839,085	99,890,653
Mexico	19,004,863	22,994,091	21,206,939	25,480,281
Costa Rica	2,732,426	3,581,899	1,520,161	1,241,191
Guatemala	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,201,714	1,102,779
Honduras	784,741	911,849	752,203	831,998
Nicaragua	1,095,865	1,514,630	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haiti	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Santo Domingo	2,382,139	3,125,695	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba	15,232,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Porto Rico	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,946	2,685,848
Danish West Indies	327,759	599,328	707,622	498,066
Dutch West Indies	174,243	246,902	544,463	474,435
French West Indies	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,542,984
Miquelon, Langley, etc	161,030	86,283	205,005	194,624

With reference to the imports from and the exports to the several South American countries, the statistics are as follows:

Country.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Argentine Republic	$5,915,879	$5,112,561	$6,429,070	$9,563,510
Bolivia			20,675	31,298
Brazil	61,750,369	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chile	3,736,307	2,931,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombia	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador	765,590	1,054,653	855,193	882,621
British Guiana	3,060,968	3,500,207	1,747,375	1,749,545
Dutch Guiana	1,457,135	1,651,009	408,414	443,757
French Guiana	12,551	37,929	150,041	170,090
Paraguay		160	699	10,751
Peru	714,247	1,496,978	1,302,695	1,925,650
Uruguay	1,772,480	1,281,109	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,746,261	2,851,634

In 1898, $1,010 worth of merchandise was exported to the Falkland Islands, but in 1899 there was neither any import or export trade with them.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

The railway interests of the United States are so vast, representing such an enormous money value and exerting such an immense influence on the commerce, not only of this country, but of the world, that information concerning them merits special attention.

On July 15 the Interstate Commerce Commission made public its report of the railway statistics of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1898. On that date there were 186,396 miles of road in operation. The amount of the capital outstanding, not including current liabilities, was $10,818,554,031. This amount represents a capital of $60,343 per mile of line. The amount of capital in the form of stocks

was $5,388,268,231, of which $1,118,996,607 was preferred stock. The amount in the form of funded debt was $5,430,285,710, comprising mortgage bonds and lesser obligations. Only 29.61 per cent of the stock paid dividends, and there was a default of interest in 11.34 per cent of the mortgage bonds. The gross earnings of all roads, covering an operating mileage of 184,648 miles, were $1,247,325,621, an increase of $125,235,848 over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897. The operating expenses during the same period were $817,973,276, being an increase of $65,448,512 as compared with the previous year.

The gross earnings comprised the following items: Passenger revenue, $266,970,490—increase, $15,834,563; mail, $34,608,352—increase, $853,886; express, $25,908,075—increase, $1,007,009; other earnings from passenger service, $7,224,000; freight revenue, $876,727,719—increase, $103,878,405; other earnings from freight service, $4,683,205—increase, $473,548; other earnings from operation, including a few unclassified items, $31,203,780.

The operating expenses for the year were: Maintenance of way and structures, $173,314,958—increase as compared with the preceding year, $13,880,555; maintenance of equipment, $142,624,862—increase, $19,682,504; conducting transportation, $464,674,276—increase, $32,148,414; general expenses, $36,476,686—decrease, $4,583. The gross earnings averaged $6,755 per mile of line, and operating expenses $4,430 per mile of line. These amounts are, respectively, $633 and $324 greater than the corresponding figures for 1897.

The aggregate number of passengers carried during the year was 501,066,681, indicating an increase as compared with the year ending June 30, 1897, of 11,621,483. The number of tons of freight carried during the year was 879,006,307, an increase of 137,300,361. The number of tons of freight carried 1 mile was 114,077,576,305, which, compared with the previous year, shows the large increase of 18,938,554,080. The number of tons of freight carried 1 mile per mile of line was 617,810, which is 93,731 greater than in 1897.

The number of persons employed by the railways of the United States, as reported on June 30, 1898, was 874,558, which is equivalent to 474 employees per 100 miles of line. Of railway employees 1,958 were killed and 31,761 were injured during the year. The number of passengers killed during the year was 221 and the number injured was 2,945. Corresponding figures for the previous year were 222 killed and 2,795 injured. In consequence of collisions and derailments 72 passengers were killed and 1,134 passengers were injured. The total number of persons, other than employees and passengers, killed was 4,680; injured, 6,176. One passenger was killed for every 2,267,270 carried and 1 injured for every 170,141. Out of every 447 employees 1 was killed, and 1 out of every 28 was injured.

The "Railroad Gazette," of New York, has made a preliminary canvass of the new railroad construction in the United States for the first six

months of 1899, and finds that, notwithstanding the increased activities in the railroad field this year, the total mileage of actual building completed proves somewhat disappointing. The total shown is 1,181.45 miles, which will be increased somewhat by later returns. This is an increase of about 90 miles over the preliminary figures of last year; but from construction actually known to be under way operations are much more extensive than last year's, and it is quite certain that the year's total will show a very considerable gain over the nearly 3,300 miles of 1898. The "Gazette" notes, for example, the Chicago and Northwestern road, which has 247 miles of new line under way, but only 4 miles were included in the statement for the first half of the year. The second six months is the building portion of the year in railroad work, and last year showed about 2 miles of new construction for every 1 completed before June 30.

The same paper in its issue for June 2, contains a table covering the milage of the railroads in the various countries and grand divisions of the world for the five years 1893–1897. According to these figures the total length of the railroads of the world in 1897 was 454,730 miles, and the increase from 1893 to 1897 was 37,458 miles, or 8.9 per cent. America, including North and South America and the West India Islands, had something more than half of the total mileage—236,218 miles. Taking the countries separately, of course the United States had much the largest mileage, but the increase in this country from 1893 to 1897 amounted to only 3.6 per cent, or 6,559 miles. Next among the great nations comes the German Empire with 29,880 miles, and after this come in the following order: Russia, France, Great Britain and Ireland, British India, Austria-Hungary, British North America, Italy, and the Argentine Republic.

In this table Mexico is credited with 7,384 miles; all of Central America, 644; the West Indies (excepting Cuba and Santo Domingo), 582; Santo Domingo, 117; Cuba, 1,104; United States of Colombia, 346; Venezuela, 633; Brazil, 8,657; Argentine Republic, 9,422; Uruguay, 1,118; Paraguay, 157; Chile, 2,662; Peru, 1,035; Bolivia, 621; Ecuador, 186; British Guiana, 22.

In railway mileage, as compared with the area of the country, Belgium has the most—32.2 miles, followed by Great Britain and Ireland, 17.55 miles, per every 100 square miles of territory.

IMPORTS OF COFFEE IN 1898 AND IN 1899.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department of the United States reports the total imports, reexports, and net imports of coffee for the fiscal years 1898 and 1899 as follows:

Imports, 1898, 870,514,455 pounds; imports, 1899, 831,820,341 pounds; reexports, 1898, 18,823,371 pounds; reexports, 1899, 30,070,195 pounds; net imports, 1898, 851,690,084; net imports, 1899, 801,750,145 pounds; total value in 1898, $62,674,181; total value in 1899, $52,369,360; value

per pound in 1898, 7.3 cents; value per pound in 1899, 6.5 cents. The imports were from the following countries:

	1898.		1899.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Pounds.		*Pounds.*	
United Kingdom	1,796,985	$254,206	4,465,794	$494,553
France	859,419	62,173	92,319	8,255
Germany	7,334,801	538,717	2,138,780	209,399
Netherlands	2,409,967	361,095	3,655,289	404,137
Other Europe	2,427,834	136,902	390,660	22,041
Central America	35,862,385	4,459,183	45,298,800	5,368,711
Mexico	34,511,168	3,599,392	27,324,827	2,686,248
West Indies	6,412,209	673,800	11,701,201	945,622
Brazil	661,008,372	40,956,963	628,417,812	35,253,010
Other South America	90,113,241	9,276,212	90,332,351	7,217,590
East Indies	21,311,159	3,603,055	10,498,299	1,502,493
Other Asia and Oceanica	4,947,018	918,104	5,290,163	840,736
Africa	42,305	6,040	642,003	104,971
Other countries	1,477,592	221,789	1,572,041	216,880
Total	870,514,455	65,067,631	831,820,341	55,274,646

The quantity imported in 1897 was 737,645,670 pounds, valued at $81,544,384, or at a little more than 11 cents per pound. From the above table it appears that over 75.5 per cent of the total supply for 1899 came from the Republic of Brazil and 86.25 per cent from South America taken as a whole. It would appear that only a shortage in the crop of Brazil would increase the price of coffee.

PRODUCTION OF TEA.

During the first week in July, the officials of the Agricultural Department at Washington were informed that tea grown within the United States had been placed on sale at New York City for the first time in the history of the country. This was the product of a tea farm conducted by Dr. CHARLES U. SHEPARD at Pinehurst, 20 miles from Charleston, South Carolina, where experiments in the culture of the tea plant had been under way for the past twenty years. This tea farm was originally started by the Agricultural Department and has been aided in various ways since then by the Government. During recent years Dr. SHEPARD was successful in raising a small crop, all of which was disposed of at the farm to regular customers. The last crop, however, was too large for the private trade and a quantity was sent to New York where it was sold at wholesale prices and since placed on sale at retail. It is represented as American tea and brings a higher price than the rarest varieties of Chinese or Japanese teas.

Although the tea growers of Japan and China have the advantages of climate and experience, Dr. SHEPARD is able to profit by some conditions found only in the United States which put him on a somewhat equal footing with his foreign competitors. Japanese and Chinese growers have to resort to the most expensive methods of packing their product for shipment abroad, putting it in heavy tin foil, several layers of matting and other covering, in the endeavor to preserve the natural

taste and other qualities of the plant. It is a well-known fact that an ocean voyage is very injurious to tea, robbing it of much of its natural flavor and sweetness, besides damaging it in other ways. The tea produced by Dr. SHEPARD has none of these disadvantages to contend with and in no manner is the quality deteriorated.

A number of years ago the Department of Agriculture distributed a quantity of tea plants in various Southern States, with the idea of encouraging the cultivation of the product. With the single exception of Dr. SHEPARD, no one seriously took up the work. He started in on a small scale, and with the assistance referred to has at last established an industry which is now paying him a good profit. Among the problems that had to be met was that of growing tea in a district which had a yearly rainfall of 56 inches, while Asiatic authorities claim that the plant requires from 80 to 100 inches of rainfall per annum and that the more that falls in the early part of the year the better. Some of the best tea districts in Asia have 120 inches of rain a year. Again, Dr. SHEPARD found that the authorities agreed that the temperature should never be below 40°. At Pinehurst a temperature as low as 15° may be expected in winter. In order to make the most of the rainfall and to have it evenly distributed, the land was underdrained, deeply plowed, stirred up, and pulverized to a depth of 18 inches; a general system of surface cultivation further aided in retaining moisture in the soil. Dr. SHEPARD thus gained moisture equal to 10 or 15 inches of rain.

The question of labor was a serious problem, as it was ascertained that it would cost eight times as much to pick 1 pound in South Carolina as in Asia. It was found out of the question to keep constantly employed a force large enough to pick the leaves from time to time as they ripened. Dr. SHEPARD accordingly hit upon a sort of kindergarten plan, securing a large number of colored children to attend his school free of charge. He taught them reading and writing, in return for which they were to pick tea, receiving in addition to their schooling enough money to pay for their food and clothing. Some of these children have become quite expert, though none of them have attained the skill credited to the experts of China and Japan.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, a horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture, recently paid a visit to this tea farm, and in submitting his report had the following to say in regard to the possibilities of the tea industry in the United States:

"No one need attempt this culture with hope of success without experience in the practical application of the principles governing every detail. It is a special business and will require special study, which can be best given on the ground where all the operations are being carried on. The student must serve an apprenticeship and learn the business from the beginning, from the sowing of the seed to the packing of the manufactured leaf. Then there is the ever-recurring question

of labor. It is evident that the industry can only be made profitable by preparing an article of strictly superior quality, and to do this more labor is required in picking the leaves than where an inferior article is made, using older and harder leaves."

COPPER PRODUCTION IN THE YEARS 1898 AND 1899.

The copper production of the United States in the year 1898 was the largest ever recorded in a single year. The figures as furnished by the producers show a total of 239,241 long tons, or 535,900,232 pounds, of fine copper. This was an increase over 1897 of 15,415 long tons, or 34,529,937 pounds, or 6.8 per cent. The ratio of increase was about the same as that shown in 1897 over 1896, but was considerably less than that reported in 1896 over the previous year. There was imported by the United States during the year 38,922,552 pounds of copper, this metal coming chiefly in the form of bullion from the mines of Mexico and British Columbia, sent to this country to be refined. On the other hand, the exports for the year amounted to 133,822.68 long tons—290,765,054 pounds—or about 55 per cent of the total production. The consumption, as arrived at approximately by these figures, showed very little change from that of the preceding year.

The copper statistics for the six months ending June 30, 1899, as compiled by the "New York Metal Exchange," are as follows: Domestic production, as per producers, returns, 124,487 long tons—278,850,880 pounds; foreign net importation, 13,908 long tons—3,115,392 pounds; total supplies, 138,395 long tons—309,966,272 pounds. Deliveries for the six months ending June 30 (in tons of 2,240 pounds) were as follows: Exports of domestic to Europe, 51,723; exports of same to British North America, 220; exports of same to Mexico, 50; contents of sulphate of copper exported (7,640 tons at 25 per cent), 1,910; total exports, 53,903; estimated deliveries for home consumption, 72,000; total deliveries, 125,903. The domestic production shows an increase of exactly 4,000 tons as compared with the same period of 1898, but compared with the last half of 1898 the increase amounts to 10,702 tons. The contents of sulphate exported show an increase of 820 tons as compared with the same period of 1898. Deliveries for home consumption were extremely heavy during the second quarter of this year. For the six months the increase over the same period of 1898 amounts to 18,000 tons, and, if compared with the second half of the year, the increase is 12,000 tons. The surplus of supplies over deliveries amounts to 12,492 tons, the greater part of which went to newly established refineries.

One of the most peculiar importations of copper ever noted in the United States was brought by the steamship *Cevic* to the port of New York, on July 25, 1899. This was 9,999 bags, or 250 tons of copper coins from India, consigned to the "Oxford Copper Company." These coins will be melted, as it is explained that they are worth more as

bullion than as money. The statement is made that when copper stood at 10 cents per pound there was a profit in coining it for the Indian Government, but conditions are now changed by prices ruling for copper. It is also claimed that the copper coins of China, and possibly some other countries, can be imported and melted at a profit; but this claim is questionable.

STATISTICS OF IMMIGRATION.

Immigration to the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, was greater than for any year since 1896, and the number of persons was over 80,000 more than in 1898. Mr. TERENCE V. POWDERLY, Commissioner of Immigration for the United States, concluded the compilation of the returns for the several ports of the country on July 11, and found that 311,715 aliens landed during the twelve months. Of these 195,277 were males and 116,458 were females. In 1898 the grand total was 229,299; in 1897, 230,832; in 1896, 343,267; in 1895, 258,536, and in 1894, 285,631. The immigration for the last two months, May and June, were remarkably heavy, being respectively 54,154 and 40,033. If that rate should be kept up during the present fiscal year, the new arrivals will number over 550,000.

In former years the Immigration Bureau recorded the nation from which each immigrant arrived; but during the past year the race or nationality was kept. Heretofore, for instance, the number of Hebrews was not known; they were Germans, Russians, or Poles. During the past twelve months 37,415 Hebrews were admitted to the United States. The Italians again take the lead, the total number of arrivals from Northern Italy being 65,639 and from Southern Italy 13,091, a total of 78,730. The total number of Irish arriving was 32,345, of whom 18,625 were females and 13,700 males—the only country sending more females than males. Every race or nationality of people on the face of the earth furnished immigrants in 1899 to the United States except the Province of Wallachia, Roumania. As many as 412 black people from Africa were admitted, as well as 1,638 Chinese, 11 of the latter being females.

SMYRNA FIG INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA.

The Department of Agriculture of the United States issued a bulletin in June, 1899, treating of the probable success of the efforts of the Department to establish the Smyrna fig industry in the State of California. It appears that the fruiting of the Smyrna fig is dependent upon the introduction from Southern Europe and the establishment in California of a little insect (*Blastophaga*) which fertilizes the figs. Experimental introductions of the insect were begun in 1898, and some of them, brought over at that time, have succeeded in penetrating the closed flowers of the Capri fig trees growing at Fresno, making the first step of the experimental work a success. The bulletin says that

"since the insect has maintained itself for an entire year, there is reason to suppose that it will continue to breed, and that California, in the near future, will be able to place a fig upon the market which will possess the same superior flavor as that which has given the imported Smyrna figs their preeminent commercial rank."

DEPOSITARY IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By direction of President McKINLEY the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China has been designated a depositary of the War Department of the United States for the Philippine Islands, and for the faithful performance of such duty it will have to furnish a bond in the sum of $500,000, and such additional sums as may be required from time to time by the Secretary of War.

LAUNCHING OF A STEAMER.

The steamship *Ponce*, a steel vessel 355 feet long, 42 feet beam, of 3,250 tons burden, and with a speed of 12 knots, was launched on July 22, at Wilmington, Delaware, for the "New York and Puerto Rico Steamship Company." She will be employed as a passenger and freight steamer between the port of New York and the island of Puerto Rico.

URUGUAY.

THE MONTEVIDEO PORT SCHEME.

Dr. C. M. PENA, the Minister of Promotion of Uruguay, has prepared a memorandum on the Montevideo port scheme, which is commented on as follows in the "Montevideo Times:"

"For twenty years at least the idea of building a new port for Montevideo has been more or less to the fore, it being generally recognized that the bay in its present condition, which is little better than that of nature, afforded neither the shelter nor the facilities requisite to sustain the commerce of the capital or to compete with the ports constructed at Buenos Ayres, La Plata, and Ensenada. Moreover, it was showing a tendency to fill up, and indeed was no longer available for modern ocean-going vessels of deep draft, which have to perform their operations of loading and unloading in the outer roads, a process both costly and inconvenient. The building of a new port was therefore an imperative necessity for the commerce of the Republic, and to prevent Montevideo, the principal gate of that commerce, from sinking into a very secondary position as compared with her Argentine rivals, though her natural position is far more advantageous than theirs."

Successive administrations have taken up this problem, the solution

of which has never approached success. The repeated failures are due principally to political instability, want of any scientific basis for the plans, and the financial difficulty. Plans were eventually prepared by Mr. GUERARD, which have been accepted, for the technical side of the scheme, and the Government regards this phase of the question as definitely closed. The third difficulty seems to have been solved by the present administration, and, as the "Times" says, "If the new port can not be made on the present basis, we may doubt if it will ever be made at all." The present scheme as summarized is as follows:

"The total cost of the port is reduced to $11,590,000, spread over a period of eight years—far less a sum than was ever imagined possible before. To meet this sum he (the Minister) proposes to utilize the additional import duty of 2½ per cent, and a new export duty of 1 per cent, yielding an annual revenue estimated at $850,000, or in eight years $6,800,000. At the end of eight years these taxes will be freed, for application to extension of the port, to other administrative purposes, or to be rescinded altogether, to the benefit of commerce and production. Other items, namely, interest on unemployed fund, sale of redeemed lands, and revenue from the port itself during the last three years, bring the port fund up to a total of $8,622,000. But, as this fund is obviously insufficient to build a port costing $11,590,000, he proposes to make up the balance by issuing port obligations (or debentures) for $5,500,000 nominal, which, issued at 73 per cent, will yield $4,015,000 cash. The services of these obligations, 6 per cent interest and 1 per cent annual accumulative amortisation, will be $385,000 annually, but this will not be any addition at all to the present national-debt service, as it will be met, in the first instance, out of revenue accruing from the port fund (that is to say, the taxes above mentioned), and, at the end of eight years, out of the revenue of the port itself, which will still leave sufficient to keep the port in repair. At the end of thirty years the obligations will be entirely redeemed, leaving the revenue of the port free. As to the issue of the obligations, this is not expected to meet with any difficulty whilst the Government maintains the high degree of confidence it now enjoys, and for the matter of that, they should be covered by local capital, as it is hoped will be mainly the case."

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1899.

Through the courtesy of Señor Don PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of Uruguay, the Bureau of the American Republics is enabled to give the following figures regarding the trade between the United States and Uruguay from January 1 to June 30, 1899:

Exports to Uruguay	$628,202.42
Exports to Uruguay, same period 1898	691,397.15
Showing a decrease of	63,194.73

The exports from New York for the same period show an increase over 1898 of $80,613.92.

There were no shipments of any kind from any of the Southern ports of the United States in 1899, while for the last six months of 1898 pitch pine and rosin were shipped to the value of $131,309.07. Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and Portland show the balance of loss in the value of exports for 1899, which, added to New York's increase, would show a total falling off in the latter ports of $143,808.66.

EXPERIMENTS IN RICE PLANTING.

Under date of May 30, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH forwarded to the Department of State at Washington the following clipping from a Montevideo newspaper, showing the surprising yield of rice in the Department of Rivera:

"The first planting of rice by Mr. JUAN LEMOS was 1½ kilograms (3.3 pounds), which yielded 150 kilograms (331 pounds), a profit of 100 to 1. A sample of the rice has been inspected and is pronounced to be of the best quality. Encouraged by this splendid result, Mr. LEMOS will extend his plantations next year. If the enthusiasm for national production spreads, the Department of Rivera will, from its soil and climatic conditions, become one of the richest in the country."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The United States Patent Office, on July 25, 1899, issued to TITO L. CARBONE, a resident of Montevideo, Uruguay, a patent for an apparatus for shaping lids of sheet-metal boxes.

Lloyds Agency, through the Uruguayan Legation in London, has made application to the Government of Uruguay for permission to establish a signal or semaphore station, to signal passing vessels, near Cape Santa María, where such a station would be of great service to navigation. The petition also asks the grant of a site of half a hectare of land for the purpose.

VENEZUELA.

NEW TARIFF LAW.

General IGNACIO ANDRADE, President of the United States of Venezuela, in the exercise of the authority granted him by articles 4 and 12 of the latest tariff law passed by the National Congress at its regular session this year, decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. The importation through the custom-houses of the Republic of revolvers of all kinds and caps for the same is allowed, upon complying with the requirements of article 5 of the tariff law relating to the introduction of firearms. Revolvers will pay on entry the duty designated in the law for articles of the eighth class, and caps that designated for articles of the sixth class.

"ART. 2. The merchandise hereinbelow mentioned, upon being introduced through the custom-houses of the Republic, shall be appraised as follows:

"White paper for printing, unsized, included under No. 31 of the new tariff law, will be appraised under the second class, and will pay 12½ centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Table or olive oil, included under No. 32, will be appraised in the third class, and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Common bottles of dark or ordinary clear glass and the jars in which gin ordinarily comes, included under No. 13, will be appraised under the first class and will pay 2 centimos of a bolívar per kilo.

"Implements for the arts and trades, with or without handles, and wooden boxes containing some of these implements, all of which articles are included under No. 65, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolívar per kilo.

"Augers and drills for perforating stone and logs, included under No. 113, will be appraised under the second class and will pay 12½ centimos of a bolívar per kilo.

"Linseed oil, included under No. 183, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolíver per kilo.

"Crushed groats for making vermicelli, included under No. 233, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolívar per kilo.

"Pure lard, unmixed with other fats, included under No. 249, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Almond oil, included under No. 295, will be appraised under the fourth class and will pay 90 centimos of a bolívar per kilo.

"Essences, perfumery, extracts of all kinds, perfumed rice powders and the like, toilet waters, pomades, cosmetics, perfumed oils and soaps, included in Nos. 295, 300, 301, 343, and 380, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolívars per kilo.

"Baize in pieces, and coverlets of the same, included under No. 311, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolívars per kilo.

"Binder twine and thread for sewing sails, and all twisted thread in the form of cord, or cotton cords, white or colored, either loosely twisted for hand knitting or hard twist like twine for other uses, included under No. 355, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolívars per kilo.

"Sateens or satins, nainsook, calicos, brillantines, lustering, cretons, carlancanes, percales, piqués, cotton merinos and fine cotton striped goods, or those having more than thirteen threads warp and woof to the five square millimeters, and all other like cotton goods, included under No. 387, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolívars per kilo.

"Hats of black silk plush, high crown, known as high hats, and other hats of this form of whatever material, including in this class opera hats, hat patterns, foulard felts, and any other kind of hats finished up or half finished, included under No. 500, will be appraised in the ninth class and will pay 24 bolívars per kilo.

"Chromos of all kinds, included under No. 509, will be appraised in the fifth class and will pay 1 bolívar and 50 centimos per kilo.

"ART. 3. The new tariff law, passed by the National Congress at its regular session of this year, will go into effect on the 1st of September next.

"Federal Palace in Caracas, June 17, 1899."

IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES IN JUNE, 1899.

The Consul-General of Venezuela in New York City, Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, has sent to the Bureau of the American Republics statistical data concerning the export trade of the United States with Venezuela during the month of June, 1899, made through the port of New York to several Venezuelan ports, accompanied by a résumé of this trade as compared with the exports during the same months in 1898. The total for June this year amounts to 47,594 packages, weighing 2,627,668.70 kilograms, valued at $265,118.73, as against 40,787 packages, weighing 2,231,058.85 kilograms, valued at $188,852.53, giving a net increase of $76,266.20 for 1899, made up as follows: Merchandise, $26,266.20; specie, $50,000.

The exports in June, 1899, as compared with corresponding period in 1898, were as follows: La Guaira, $162,662.34 (increase, $50,000 in gold coin and $15,797.79 merchandise); Puerto Cabello, $30,656.45 (increase $2,942.06); Maracaibo, $46,370.42 (increase, $14,330.40); La Vela, $6,753.19 (decrease, $3,038.91); Guanta, $347.83 (decrease, $436.40); Cumaná, $1,334 (decrease, $68); Carúpano, $1,120 (decrease, $4,354.24); Ciudad, Bolivar, $15,874.50 (increase, $2,497.50). There were no exports to Caño Colorado in 1899, which for 1898 took merchandise valued at $1,404.

The principal articles shipped were the following: Flour, $42,546.20; lard, $33,322; cotton goods, bleached, $17,554.73; provisions, $13,172; haberdashery and miscellaneous, $13,086.26; butter, $11,860; drugs and perfumery, $10,157.99; machinery, $8,507; kerosene, $7,728; cotton goods, gray drills, etc., $7,053; hardware, $6,766.75; cotton prints, calicoes, etc., $6,713; barbed wire and staples, $5,742; canvas and ducks, $4,465.87; cut tobacco, $4,646; cordage, $4,209; soap and candle materials, $3,143.08, and $50,000 gold coin.

THE ORINOCO IRON MINES.

The "Iron World" for July 27 says that the Supreme Court of Venezuela has decided the suit of the "Orinoco Iron Company" against what is known as the "English Raleigh Syndicate" in favor of the former company. The litigation, which has been in progress for some time, was instituted for the purpose of determining the title to large holdings of iron-ore property on the Orinoco River. It appears that the Orinoco Iron Company is a corporation organized in the State of Wisconsin, United States, and the recent decision gives the company control of some 14,000 acres of land which is rich in a number of mineral deposits. The concession was obtained in 1883, being originally acquired by CYRUS FITZGERALD, formerly manager of the "El Callao" mine of Venezuela. Only a few cargoes of the iron ore have ever been brought to the United States, but it is reported that arrangements are now being made for opening the mines and providing for a regular

business. Chief Engineer DAVID LAWSON and Assistant Engineers ROBINSON and LYLE are on the ground and work has begun.

Regarding the ore of the mines in question, Mr. S. NORTON, who has twice visited them in a professional capacity, reports that the first occurrence of the ore is on the Imataca Mountains, about 54 miles from the mouth of the Orinoco. The first mines were opened near the island of Corisimo, and large vessels are able to approach within 50 feet of the shore. At this point the ore is about 1,600 feet from the river and some 200 feet above it, appearing as bowlders from 100 pounds to 100 tons in weight, and covering the tops of the hills for a distance of 3,000 feet in length and 100 feet in width. Mr. NORTON estimates that there were between 150,000 and 200,000 tons of Bessemer ore in sight, and thinks that the true vein has a thickness of 12 feet. Boulders of ore are found to the westward of this place for 35 miles. In this direction the hills increase in height and the ore increases with the size of the hills, the outcrop being at some points from 100 to 300 feet wide, and thousands of tons lie at the surface. A sample of the Imataca ore, as analyzed by Mr. CLEMENS JONES, and quoted by Mr. JOHN BIRKINBINE in a report to the United States Geological Survey, gave the following results: Metallic iron, 66.76; silica, 0.69; lime, 3.28; manganese, 0.07; sulphur, 0.011; phosphorus, 0.0327.

It would therefore appear that the Orinoco ores may come into the market as rivals to those now brought to the seacoast cities of the United States.

A UNITED STATES BANK IN CARACAS.

Under date of May 5, 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul at Maracaibo, made a report to the Department of State at Washington in regard to the establishment at Caracas of a banking institution by United States citizens, represented by Mr. GEORGE W. UPTON. In a communication to the Consul, Mr. UPTON says that the capital of the bank is to be 15,000,000 bolivars ($2,895,000); it is to be installed within four months, and the charter will last fifty years. The Government has been petitioned to grant free introduction of the furniture and materials necessary for the construction of the buildings. Mr. PLUMACHER adds that such an enterprise in Maracaibo would be remunerative and would facilitate United States trade.

INLAND NAVIGATION PROJECT.

Writing from Caracas under date of June 16, 1899, Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, United States Minister to Venezuela, informs the Department of State at Washington in regard to a plan recently presented to the Government which looks to the construction of the greatest system of inland waterways in the world. It is proposed to connect by means of canals the great river systems of South America, making a navigable

waterway from the valley of the Orinoco to that of La Plata, inclusive. The estimated cost of this work is $200,000,000, which figure, however, is largely conjectural, as no accurate surveys or detailed statement of the probable cost has ever been made. It is not unlikely, continues Mr. LOOMIS, that this matter will be taken up seriously by some of the South American Governments within a few years.

HARBOR REGULATIONS OF PUERTO CABELLO.

Under date of June 15, 1899, Mr. WILLIAM H. VOLKMAR, Vice-Consul for the United States at Puerto Cabello, sent to the Department of State at Washington a copy of the new harbor regulations of that port. These regulations are very complete and consist of thirty-eight different articles, besides a note regarding the location of three buoys placed to protect the submarine cable between Puerto Cabello and La Guaira. The regulations are printed in full in the "Advance Sheets of the Consular Reports" for July 31 (No. 490), issued by the Department of Foreign Commerce at Washington.

COTTON GOODS TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

According to the official statistics issued by Great Britain, the values of cotton piece goods sold to Venezuela for the six months ending June 30, 1899, as compared with the same months in 1898, were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Unbleached	£12,090	£5,861
Bleached	90,509	41,527
Printed	86,843	39,332
Dyed	51,186	14,080
Total	240,628	100,800

These figures, valuing the pound sterling at $4.866, give a total of $1,170,895.85 for 1899, and $490,492.80 for 1898, or an increase in the six months of 1899 of over 140 per cent.

REQUEST FOR THE ASHES OF A GREAT DISCOVEPER.

The "New York Tribune," of July 27, says that the Venezuelan Government recently addressed a friendly request to the Government of Santo Domingo relative to the remains of the famous ALONZO DE OJEDA, who discovered Venezuela, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Lake of Maracaibo, and who died and was buried in Dominican territory. Venezuela desires that the remains of this distinguished man may be transferred to Maracaibo, in the State of Zulia, whose Governor, Dr. JESUS MUÑOZ TEBAR, was formerly Minister of Public Works. The

late President of the Dominican Republic, ULISE HEUREAUX, also had a profound respect for all traditions, and was a preserver of relics connected with the history of his country and of America in general. He caused the building of a handsome mausoleum at Santo Domingo, where were deposited, last December, the alleged remains of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS; these, according to the Dominicans, were the real remains of the great Genoese discoverer, and only the ashes of DIEGO, the son of COLUMBUS, were transferred from Havana, Cuba, to the cathedral at Seville, Spain, by the Spanish when they evacuated Cuba. The newspapers of Santo Domingo and public opinion there approved of the intention of President HEUREAUX to decline the request, and in all probability OJEDA'S remains will be left near where he died.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce," all the hardware sold in Venezuela is sent from the United States, England, and Germany. The imports of these goods from France are very small.

United States citizens have secured a concession from the Government of Venezuela to build a railroad from Puerto Cabello to Barquisimeto, in the interior, a distance of 100 miles.

By administrative decree, the concession granted to WILLIAM H. VOLKMAR, a citizen of the United States, to manufacture whisky in the Republic of Venezuela, which was declared forfeited by resolution of August 4, 1898, has been revived and modifications have been made in the original contract of concession, the grantee being given an extension of nine months in which to perform his obligations. The grantee has work on the distillery well under way. The whisky trust of the United States is said to be behind this undertaking.

HAMBURG'S ALL AMERICA EXPORT TRADE.

The Bureau has received, through the courtesy of Dr. VERSMANN, Bürgermeister, of Hamburg, Germany, the statistics of the commerce and navigation of Hamburg for 1898.

The following table shows the amount of exports from Hamburg to the several countries of the American continent:

	Marks.
British North America	14,643,630
United States (Atlantic coast)	147,465,640
United States (Pacific coast)	2,000,940
Mexico (Atlantic coast)	22,194,990
Mexico (Pacific coast)	3,508,080
CENTRAL AMERICA.	
Guatemala	3,524,960
British Honduras	54,930

	Marks.
Honduras	692,040
Salvador	1,046,540
Nicaragua	871,390
Costa Rica	2,017,680
Porto Rico	2,238,740
Cuba	1,653,490
Barbados	119,860
Haiti	1,045,460
Santo Domingo	1,542,760
Jamaica	458,840
Trinidad	341,830
Bahamas	28,460
Other islands	86,640
St. Thomas	463,390
Curaçao	373,420
Guiana	216,560
Venezuela	6,577,750
Colombia (on Caribbean)	5,660,240
Colombia (Pacific coast)	1,031,050
Paraguay	223,190
Brazil	68,332,760
Argentine Republic	36,989,840
Falkland Islands	7,670
Uruguay	8,623,950
Chile	31,734,430
Bolivia	2,926,560
Peru	8,066,980
Ecuador	4,195,800

BOOK NOTICES.

"Segundo Censo de la República Argentina, Mayo 10, de 1895" (second census of the Argentine Republic, May 10, 1895), is the title of the work mentioned in the July number of the BULLETIN, and which merits more than the passing notice there given it. The text is in Spanish and French. Volume I of the work treats of the territory of the Republic, and consists of two chapters divided into several parts, written by men eminently equipped for the task they assumed. Chapter I includes a number of subjects, all treated entertainingly and understandingly, such as a geographical synopsis, geology, a geologico-paleontological synopsis, climate, flora, and fauna. Chapter II is devoted to history, immigration, and colonization. The volume contains 56 illustrations in the way of maps, charts, and lithographic reproductions of photographs of many species of the country's flora. Volume II is devoted to the population, and its single chapter considers the results of the census from every possible point of view—numerical, comparative, physical, etc. Many full-page charts and diagrams in colors, illustrative of

the text, are included in the volume. Volume III relates to complementary statistics, and covers (Chapters IV to XV, inclusive) the following subjects: A political and administrative résumé, statistics regarding buildings, the national guard, newspapers and libraries, hospitals, churches, agriculture, live stock, manufactures and industries, commerce, means of communication, diversions, social statistics, charities, etc. The work, which is most creditable, typographically and otherwise, was issued from the presses of the national penitentiary, and comprises 2,000 copies of Volume I, 4,000 of Volume II, and 2,500 of Volume III.

The first census of the Argentine was taken in 1869, when the population was 1,830,214; the figures given by the 1895 census are 4,044,911, showing an increase in 25.66 years of 2,214,697, or 121 per cent, the like of which it is claimed the demographic history of the world has not heretofore recorded. One of the plates in Volume II shows graphically the annual rate of increase of population in the leading countries of the world, from which it appears that the rate of increase per annum, from 1869 to 1895, in the Argentine was 49.8 per thousand, which exceeds any other nation by more than 10 per cent. Other interesting statistics are the following: The Argentine population was: Males, 1,452,952; females, 1,497,432. The foreign population was: Males, 635,967; females, 368,560, showing that there were, in 1895, 44,480 more Argentine females than males, while the foreign males outnumbered the females by 267,407. A curious feature of the enumeration is the number of centenarians enrolled—i. e., 229 males and 429 females, a total of 658. The compiler of these latter statistics is doubtful as to their accuracy, and says: "If, in lieu of centenarians, we consider these persons as 90 or more years of age, we shall perhaps get at the truth." The building statistics show that there were in the Republic 1,000 houses of three stories, 10,000 of two stories, and 100,000 of one story. There were 345 periodical publications issued; the number of libraries was 162, containing 383,661 volumes, valued at $1,654,256; there were 3,735,763 hectares sown in wheat, corn, flax, and barley; the number of horned cattle was 21,701,526; of horses, 4,446,859; asses, 197,872; mules, 285,497; sheep, 74,379,562; hogs, 652,766; goats, 2,748,860; domesticated ostriches, 82,497; chickens, 7,886,354; ducks, geese, and turkeys, 1,224,968. There were 22,204 industrial establishments employing 145,650 hands, with an invested capital of $284,101,367, national currency. In 1896 the total length of railway lines in operation was 14,462 kilometers, representing an investment in capital of $497,826,305, gold.

The second number of Volume II of the "Anglo-American Magazine" for August, 1899, published in New York and London, contains a short article on "Ecuador and its Prospects," by ST. GEORGE LANE FOX PITT. The writer has recently visited the country on behalf of the

Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company, "an Anglo-American undertaking which is destined to open up the interior of the country to foreign trade and enterprise." He avers his confidence in the importance of Ecuador as a market for British and American exports, as a field of exploitation for the mining engineer, and the planter acquainted with more scientific methods than those prevailing there at present, and, finally, as a charming resort for the tourist on health and pleasure bent, asserting that before long it will become as universally recognized as a sanitarium as are California and South Africa. The writer dwells upon the fertility of the tropical districts of the country, and states that it is one of the three greatest cacao-producing regions of the world, saying that were more care bestowed upon the preparation of the pods that it would indisputably occupy the first place. "As to the fertility of the country for the growth not only of cacao, but of coffee, india rubber, cinchona, ivory nuts, and other vegetable products, there can be no question. Petroleum is also found in abundance near the coast, and in the neighboring district of Peru it appears to be a remunerative industry for those who work it. Petroleum is likewise known to exist in the mountains of Ecuador and * * * what is perhaps of equal importance, there are rich and extensive seams of coal."

The article states that the revenue of the country is derived to the extent of over 70 per cent from custom-house receipts; that in 1897 the budget of these amounted to 4,000,000 *sucres*, but that during the following year it bounded up to about 6,500,000 *sucres*. "In the next budget they may very likely figure as 10,000,000."

The article is illustrated with reproductions of four photographs taken by the writer during his visit to the country.

A recent publication issued by the United States Bureau of Education is in the shape of a pamphlet containing Chapter XXII of the report of the Commissioner of Education, and is a report prepared by Mr. F. F. HILDER on "Education in the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and Brazil." In the Argentine Republic a law was passed in 1884 making education free and obligatory for all children, both male and female, between the ages of 6 and 14, and creating a national board of education. By the same law the promotion of education was provided for by the appropriation of funds from the public revenues for its sustenance. In the year 1897 the amount of the appropriations for educational purposes in the Republic was $17,551,363, or 6.28 per cent of the whole revenue of the country. The statistics for January, 1897, were as follows: Public schools, 2,838; in the capital, 211; normal schools, 37; in the capital, 3; private schools, 1,111, in the capital, 249; total, 3,986; in the capital, 463. Number of pupils: in the capital, 79,240; all others, 365,841. Number of teachers: 2,497 in the capital, and 10,295 elsewhere. All the different schools for higher education are described, including literary and scientific societies. Regarding Uruguay the author says,

"the energetic and indomitable spirit of the people, which successfully achieved their liberty and right of self-government, now that it is directed in the paths of progress, is accomplishing magnificent results, and in no direction is this more evident than in the advanced educational system which has been evolved." There are, including both public and private schools, one school to every 897 inhabitants, and one scholar to every 11 people. Montevideo is the seat of all the leading higher educational, scientific, and art institutions of the country, of which a description is given. By the provisions of the constitution of Brazil, Congress is given authority to promote the development of literature, arts, and sciences, and the sole power to create institutions of higher instruction and secondary or high-school education throughout the Republic and primary schools in the Federal District. The latest statistics available give the number of public primary schools as 7,017, with about 300,000 pupils. The different schools of higher education are enumerated in this work, with the courses of study in each.

The writings of THEODORE HAENKE, preceded by a biographical sketch by M. V. BALLIVIAN and PEDRO KRAMER, have been published by "El Nacional" press at La Paz, Bolivia (1898). In the introduction the editors give a retrospect of the first voyages of discovery in South America, as well of the conquests and journeys of the missionaries in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. The first really scientific expedition to South America was that of LA CONDAMINE (1736–1748). The second, that of RUIZ and PAVON to Peru (1778). The third, the journey of ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT and BONPLAND. The Geographer AZARA traveled and worked in the interior of the South American countries during the years 1784–1792. The geography, flora and fauna of South America was little known at the end of the eighteenth century. Under the auspices of CHARLES III of Spain an extensive scientific expedition was sent out to make a journey around the world for the purpose of determining more accurately the location of the Spanish colonies. This expedition consisted of the corvettes *Descubierta* and *Atrevida*, under command of ALEJ. MALASPINA, and departed from Cadiz in July, 1789. A small number of learned men, especially naturalists, accompanied the expedition, and among them THEODORE HAENKE, a Bohemian by birth, was to have served as botanist. HAENKE, however, arrived in Cadiz one day too late, the expedition having sailed without him. Nothing daunted, he took the next ship to Montevideo. This was wrecked in the La Plata and HAENKE lost nearly everything saving his life. Notwithstanding, he performed what would be considered an almost impossible feat, walking straight through South America from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, where he met MALASPINA, going with him to Mexico, then to Peru, the Mariana and Philippine Islands, previously having investigated the interior of Peru.

The closing chapter of the introduction is most interesting to Americans, containing as it does a critical review of HAENKE'S manuscripts, now preserved in the National Library of Buenos Ayres.

Puerto Rico was originally covered with forests from the level of the sea to the summit of its mountains. It is doubtful if there was a single foot of its area which was not at some time covered by tree growth, varying in height from the diminutive mangrove bushes, which border the seashore, to the gigantic deciduous trees mingled with the fronds and trunks of towering palms, which add height to the loftiest peaks and ridges. The island, although still wooded in the sense that it is dotted by many beautiful trees, is now, from a commercial point of view, largely deforested. In January, 1899, Mr. ROBERT T. HILL, geologist, connected with the United States Geological Survey, made a trip through the military department of Puerto Rico, during which he became familiar with its forests, and, by inquiry among various persons engaged in woodworking trades, obtained much information as to the qualities and uses of the various native timbers. The results of Mr. HILL'S observations are embraced in "Bulletin No. 35" of the Division of Forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture, entitled "Notes on th Forest Conditions of Puerto Rico," now in press and soon to be issued by the Department. The report contains not only a statement of the forest resources of the country and the extent of its timber lands, but also descriptions of the mountains, valleys, geology, soils, and flora of the island. The characteristics of 15 Puerto Rican woods are given in detail. In the study and description of the native woods, reproductions of 15 of which appear in the bulletin, Mr. HILL was assisted by Mr. GEORGE D. SUDWORTH, dendrologist of the Division of Forestry. The representations of the woods are produced by impressions made directly upon pieces of the various kinds themselves. The bulletin contains a frontispiece, 8 plates, and 9 text figures.

A question which has caused some discussion in European trade papers has recently been answered by Mr. FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, a mining engineer at Aachen, Germany, in a work entitled "Geschichtliches über die Entwickelung des 800 Jährigen Steinkohlenbergbaues an der Worms, 1113–1898." The query under discussion was "When did the inhabitants of Europe first begin to mine coal?" Ancient Scottish records show that in the year 1214, before the close of the reign of the Scotch King, "William the Lion," coal was attracting attention on the south shore of the Firth of Forth; and also that during the same reign, a grant of the title of the colliery of Cariden was made to the monks of Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh. These were believed by the English savants to be the first authentic accounts of the existence of coal. German documents unearthed by Mr. BUETTGENBACH, how-

ever, leave no doubt that coal was found and worked in the Worms district at least one hundred years previously, or as far back as 1113. This author published a previous work bearing on the same subject.

"The Meteorological Chart of the Great Lakes" for June, issued by the Weather Bureau of the United States, presents a chart of the normal annual precipitation of rain and snow in the drainage basin of the chain of Great Lakes in the northern part of the United States, with a set of tables and a brief summary prepared by Mr. A. J. HENRY. The conclusion is reached that the influence, in the United States and Canada, of these lakes on precipitation is not so great as is generally believed, and is stated as follows: "With the possible exception of Lake Superior, the lakes do not appear to have a very marked influence on the precipitation over the adjacent land areas. There is more precipitation on the south sides than on the north sides of Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario, the difference in the case of Lake Superior being about 8 inches, while the average on the south shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario are both about 3 inches more than on the north shores. The eastern shores of Lakes Michigan and Huron have a greater precipitation than the western, but this condition is not so strongly marked as in the other cases noted. The annual precipitation is somewhat less over the upper peninsula of Michigan as compared with the immediate shore line, and the precipitation over the interior of the same State is considerably less than on the shores of the lakes on either side.

The "National Geographic Magazine" for August, 1899, contains an article from the pen of JOSEPH NIMMO, Jr., LL. D., entitled "The proposed American Interoceanic Canal in its Commercial Aspects." The author begins with the statement that "the question as to the practicability of either the Nicaragua or the Panama Canal project depends upon three classes of considerations, viz, those relating to its engineering aspects, involving questions as to cost; those relating to its commercial possibilities, and those relating to its military importance. The Government of the United States has thus far confined its inquiries almost exclusively to the engineering features of the project." Mr. NIMMO says that neither the Nicaragua Canal nor the Panama Canal would afford the shortest or the most practicable route for the trade of the Atlantic seaboards of the United States or for the trade of the countries of Europe with Asia or Australia, and presents figures to substantiate his statement. The paper is a valuable contribution to the subject, though many of the arguments used against the construction of the canal are not new.

Dr. FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, a well-known Ecuadorian jurist, has been engaged by the Government of Ecuador to prepare two works: "Clave de la Legislación Ecuatoriana" (Key to Ecuadorian Legislation), one volume, to contain all matters cognate to the subject, and to have

an appendix giving: 1. The constitution of the Republic. 2. Data relating to the Geography and Statistics of Ecuador. 3. The law as to territorial divisions. 4. The itinerary of the Republic. 5. Legal forms. The second work is to be in two volumes, and entitled "Compilación de todas las leyes ecuatorianas vigentes no comprendidas en las Códigos Civil, Penal, Militar, Mercantil, y de Minería" (compilation of all Ecuadorian laws in force not comprised in the civil, penal, military, mercantile, and mining codes). The first volume is to contain these laws, with brief annotations, while the second will be devoted solely to treaties and international conventions. The Government will publish 3,000 copies of each within six months.

At the instance of Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Minister of the Interior, Señor JOSÉ HORTA has prepared a pamphlet of 20 pages, entitled "El Hule en Guatemala." This publication, which was issued by the Government (Tipografía Nacional) during the present year, favors the cultivation of rubber (*Castilloa elastica*) in the Republic. A further report is understood to be in preparation. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Consul-General of the United States, forwarded to the Department of State a translation of portions of Señor HORTA'S pamphlet, which was published in "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports, No. 370," by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the United States. In this connection attention is called to an article published in "De Indische Mercuur," Batavia, Java, by M. ALBERTO, entitled "Commendation of Hule (*Castilloa elastica*) gathered in Guatemala."

Some five years ago Mr. E. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissioner of Navigation of the United States, undertook a compilation of the laws of the United States relating to navigation and the merchant marine. The volume, published in 1895, proved so convenient to the shipping interests for reference purposes, and especially in the offices of admiralty lawyers, who could get from it in a very few minutes information requiring hours of labor over the statutes, that there was a great demand for it. Now the Commissioner has compiled a new edition, which has just been issued by the Bureau of Navigation, incorporating all legislation up to March 4, 1899, when the last Congress adjourned.

The "Textile World's Directory of the Textile Trades of the United States for 1899" has been issued. The three divisions of the book contain data concerning the location and equipment of the textile mills of the country, and also the addresses of the agents and buyers of textiles, and the dealers in raw materials and stock. The work on the book appears to have been done in a thorough manner, and the information has been made easy of access by being arranged alphabetically under States, cities, and towns. A series of maps is incorporated which indicate the location of the "mill cities" and "mill towns" in the principal manufacturing States.

The general managers of the Pan-American Exposition, which will be held in the city of Buffalo, State of New York, during the summer and autumn of the year 1901, have begun the publication of a journal in the interest of the exposition. The first number of this publication, which is handsomely printed and finely illustrated, was issued on July 15. For the present it will be issued semimonthly, and will be dated on the 1st and 15th of each month, respectively; later on, as the exposition plans proceed more swiftly, it will be issued at more frequent intervals and in enlarged form.

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST has issued a book of 98 pages, with maps, entitled "Isthmus of Panama, Nicaragua, Canal Routes, Etc." This work is a compilation of various articles on the subject written for the technical journals by the author and other writers. It also contains a collection of reports, letters, memoranda, etc., by several engineers, travelers, and others who have studied the canal problem from personal observation. In addition to Panama and Nicaragua, other routes, such as San Blas and Darien, together with the Tehuantepec ship railway, are reviewed.

The "Transactions of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association" at the annual meeting held in Boston on April 27, 28, and 29, 1899, have been published in pamphlet form by the Association, 45 Milk street, Boston, Massachusetts. There were present at the meeting 287 members and guests. Among the numerous papers presented upon various topics of special interest was one by Dr. W. P. WILSON, Director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, upon "The Cotton Trade with our newly acquired Territories." In the absence of Dr. WILSON the paper was read by Mr. E. W. S. TINGLE, of Philadelphia.

In A. D. 1900, it is stated by a correspondent of the "India Rubber World," under date of Pará, June 1, 1899, "in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, a book will be published, prepared by some of the most eminent writers in the Republic," having for its object "a description of the country and its resources." The Baron of MARAJO will prepare the chapters on the "Geography of Brazil" and Senhor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO those on the "Extractive Industry," which will contain a complete history of rubber.

The Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States has, within the last month, issued in pamphlet form the following publications with reference to Cuba and Porto Rico: "Constitution Establishing Self-Government in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico, Promulgated by Royal Decree of November 25, 1897;" "The Notarial Laws in Force in Cuba and Puerto Rico (1888);" and "Provincial and Municipal Laws of Puerto Rico." These are all English translations of the original Spanish laws, which to a great extent are still in force.

The "Monthly Weather Review" (United States) for May contained an exhaustive article on the "Climatology of the Isthmus of Panama," by H. T. ABBOTT, Brigadier-General, U. S. A. (retired), with a valuable appendix by Professor A. J. HENRY, containing data of the precipitation at different points on the isthmus. The same Review contained a paper on "Rainfall and Temperature in Nicaragua," contributed by Mr. A. P. DAVIS.

On July 27, Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Director of the Geological Survey of the United States, issued a very handsome map and important descriptions of routes of explorations in Alaska in 1898, with general information concerning the Territory. The Fifty-fifth Congress of the United States provided $20,000 for surveys in Alaska and in pursuance of this legislation several expeditions of geologists and topographers were organized. The publication referred to is the result of their work in Alaska.

"Por Mares y por Tierras" is the title of a work by EDUARDO WILDE, which is divided into the following chapters: I. Europe—Various points; II. Africa—The Mediterranean Shores; III. South America—Chile and Peru; IV. Around the World—Itinerary of a trip from Buenos Ayres to England, Germany, France, Italy, Suez Canal, Red Sea, Ceylon, China, Japan, Honolulu, North America, Lisbon, and Rio de Janiero. It is a most interesting work and is published by the house of JACOBO PEUSER, Buenos Ayres.

"Guía General de Mexico," issued by the publishing house of RAMÓN DE S. N. ARALUCE, City of Mexico, is the title of a work which has claimed attention at home and abroad. It bristles with data anent the Mexico of to-day, containing most interesting matter relating to the country from a political, commercial, industrial, railroad, scientific, and literary standpoint. It is also profusely illustrated, and is intended to be exhibited at the Paris Exposition, to show the advancement of the country in culture and arts of peace.

"Curso de Historia Argentina" (Course in Argentine History) is the title of a book which will be published in Buenos Ayres before the end of the year, and which is intended for use in the national colleges of that Republic. Señor Dr. M. GARCÍA MÉROU, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic at Washington, is the author of the work, whose name upon the title-page will recommend it to all students of the annals of the progressive southern country.

The sixth annual report, 1898, of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry of the State of Montana, J. H. CALDERHEAD, Commissioner, bears the suggestive title of "The Treasure State: Montana and its Magnificent Resources". The chief treasures of this State are its great mineral resources, copper leading all, and its agricultural possibilities. The report makes a volume of 120 pages and contains several maps.

"The Board of Trade Journal" (London) for July contains some interesting articles concerning some of the countries belonging to the International Union of American Republics. They are: "The Trade, Industry, and Shipping of Mexico" (with map), "Railways in Venezuela," "Light Railways in Argentina," "Wire Industry of the United States," and "Agricultural Industry of the Hawaiian Islands."

A report of the Evangelical Society for German immigrants in Brazil states that nearly every ship arriving in that country brings numbers of people who would have done better to have remained at home. Mercantile men, clerks, teachers, and those of similar occupations can secure positions only with great difficulty. Mechanics, to some extent, and agriculturists have the best chance of success.

"The American Monthly Review of Reviews" for August, 1899, contains an interesting article on "Puerto Rico from a Woman's Point of View," from the pen of Mrs. GUY V. HENRY, wife of the former Military Governor of the Island. The article treats the subject largely from an educational standpoint, and is illustrated.

Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS writes interestingly of the "Nicaragua Canal" in the "National Geographic Magazine" for July. Mr. A. P. DAVIS supplements this paper with a sketch of the Panama survey. The work of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States is described in the same issue of this periodical.

"Sarmiento" is the name of a new encyclopedic and illustrated review, devoted to the arts, sciences, letters, agriculture, stock raising, industries, and commerce, which has lately made its appearance in Buenos Ayres. It is published by the firm of SCHURER-STÖLLE.

"La Vie sur les Hautes Plateaux," by Prof. A. L. HERRERA and Dr. VERGARA LOPE, is a quarto volume of 790 pages, which has just been issued in the City of Mexico, and is for sale at the office of "El Progreso de Mexico," City of Mexico.

A second edition of the "Hand Book of Rio de Janeiro" is now in the course of revision and will be published at an early date, considerably improved and enlarged. It will be published by the office of "The Rio News."

The Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States has published a "Translation of the Law of Railroads for the Island of Cuba, and Regulations for its Execution (1895)."

An account of the "Survival of Paganism among the Mexican Indians," from the pen of Prof. FREDERICK STARR, is to be found in the July number of "The Open Court."

A new edition of the "Customs Regulations and Tariff of Mexico," including all amendments and additions to date, has just been issued by the Mexican Government.

"Donahoe's Magazine" for July contains an entertaining illustrated paper on Nicaragua, by E. LYELL EARLE.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

During the past month the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following publications:

"Memoria de la Secretaria de Hacienda y Crédito Público, correspondiente al año de 1898, presentada á la Asamblea Nacional Legislativa de 1899." Guatemala, National Printing Office.

"Dirección del Hospital General y sus Dependencias. Informe y Estados del año de 1898." Guatemala, National Printing Office.

"Sinópsis Geográfica y Estadística del Perú, 1895–1898." Lima, office of "El Tiempo."

Conte ANGELO DE GUBERNATIS: "L'Argentina. Ricordi e Letture. Firenze. Bernardo Seeber, libraio editore, 1898.

JUAN A. ALSINA: "La Inmigración Europea en la República Argentina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

FRANCISCO SEGUI: "Saladeros. Situación de la Industria Saladeril. Datos de actualidad." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"L'Agriculture, l'Elevage, l'Industrie et le Commerce dans la Province de Buenos Aires." 1895.

"Memoria Demográfica, año 1895." Published under the direction of CARLOS P. SALAS, La Plata, 1898.

LUIS V. VARELA: "En la Cordillera Andina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Legislación de Impuestos Internos." Buenos Aires, 1897.

"Arreglos de Límites entre la República Argentina y Bolivia, 1868–1895."

"La Cordillera de los Andes." 1899.

"Estadística de Ferrocarriles en Explotación." 1898.

M. A. MONTES DE OCA: "Límites con Chile." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Tarifa de Avaluos y Leyes de Organización de los Ministerios é Impuestos y Disposiciones Reglamentarias en vigencia en el año 1899."

"La Australia Argentina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Memoria del Departamento de Hacienda, Correspondiente al año de 1897." Two volumes.

"Memoria Presentada al Consejo Deliberante por el Intendente Municipal de Buenos Aires en 1897."

"Annuaire Statistique de la Ville de Buenos Aires, VI^me^ Année, 1896." Buenos Aires, 1897.

"Anuario Estadístico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, VII° Año, 1897." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Compilation of the Organic Provisions of the Administration of Justice in force in the Spanish Colonial Provinces, and Appendices relating thereto." (Translation.) United States War Department, Washington, 1899.

"Adaptation of the Electoral Law of June 26, 1890, to the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, August, 1899.

"Memorándum relativo á la Cuestión Puerto en la Bahía de Montevideo, por el Ministro de Fomento, Dr. D. Carlos María de Pena." Montevideo, 1899.

"Laws relating to the Civil Administration and Government of the Island of Puerto Rico." (Translation.) Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, 1899.

"Appendix to the Report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, 1897." Toronto, 1899.

"Actas de la Asamblea General Constituyente y Legislativa del Estado." Tomo I. Montevideo, 1896.

BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. AGOSTO, 1899. No. 2.

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

COMERCIO CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN 1899.

Con fecha 6 de mayo de 1899, el Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en la República Argentina, dirigió al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington un informe sobre el desarrollo del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y aquel país durante el primer trimestre del año corriente.

Por este informe se ve que hubo un aumento en lo que se importó de los Estados Unidos y una diminución en lo que para este país se exportó. Anexo al informe hay un cuadro en el que se muestran el aumento y diminución en las importaciones y exportaciones de la República Argentina durante el período mencionado, en comparación con el mismo espacio de tiempo en 1898. Por este cuadro se ve que el aumento en la importación está casi dividido en su totalidad entre productos ingleses y americanos, pues el comercio con otros países ha permanecido estacionario. La exportación á Francia, Alemania y Bélgica fué la que aumentó en gran escala. La exportación á los Estados Unidos disminuyó por valor de $158,311, y á la Gran Bretaña por valor de $1,940,032. A pesar de la gran diminución respecto de este último país, dice el Ministro que la prensa argentina se ha valido de la reducción en la cantidad exportada á los Estados Unidos, como de un argumento para demostrar que los derechos impuestos en los Estados Unidos sobre las lanas perjudican el tráfico de aquella República en dicho artículo. La diminución en lo que se exportó para Chile y para Italia, que son los otros dos países respecto de los cuales se nota bastante esta reduccion, fué respectivamente de $508,061 y de $269,597. El valor total de la exportación en el primer trimestre de 1899 fué de $47,532,893, contra $43,970,805 en el mismo período de 1898, ó sea un aumento de $3,562,088. El

aumento en el valor de la exportación se ha limitado enteramente á las lanas, el precio de las cuales, durante la última parte de la estación, ha sido notablemente elevado, y el artículo de la calidad más fina, según dice el Ministro. Algunas lanas muy finas se vendieron en Buenos Aires á precios más altos que en ninguna época durante los pasados quince años. El valor de la exportación de cereales disminuyó, aunque la cantidad exportada fué mayor. El Ministro envía una tabla en la que se ven los embarques de lanas que se han hecho en la República Argentina desde el 1° de octubre de 1898 hasta el 1° de mayo de 1899, lo cual arroja un gran total de 396,738 pacas. Esto muestra una diminución respecto de la estación anterior, pues en ella los embarques ascendieron á 415,109 pacas. Durante el primer período mencionado se remitieron á los Estados Unidos 6,262 pacas de lana, contra 10,995 en el año precedente. Aunque hubo una baja en el número de pacas de lana, el valor en la estación que terminó el 1° de mayo de 1899 excedió al de la estación anterior en $4,572,430.

Dice el Ministro que quizá no es fuera de lugar el mencionar que, después de un estudio superficial del asunto, él es de opinión que algunas manufacturas argentinas han recibido provecho material y decidido impulso de la Exposición Nacional de Productos Argentinos, que estuvo abierta en Buenos Aires, y fué muy concurrida durante los últimos tres meses de 1898. El certamen fué una verdadera revelación y "sin duda alguna hizo mucho para estimular el interés, que entónces decaía, en los esfuerzos que constantemente hacían los industriales argentinos para que se mantuviesen tan altos como fuese posible los derechos de aduana sobre géneros importados."

Con fecha 9 de mayo de 1899, Mr. DANIEL MAYER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires, dirigió á Wáshington un informe sobre el tráfico de importación de la República Argentina durante el primer trimestre de 1899, comparado con el mismo período de 1898. Dicho informe contiene una tabla con las cifras correspondientes á las importaciones totales, según los países de donde provinieron. Los valores se dan en oro argentino, y un peso equivale á .965 en moneda de los Estados Unidos. A continuación se verá la tabla en referencia:

Países.	1899.	1898.	Aumento.	Diminución.
Gran Bretaña	$11,383,548	$9,596,771	$1,786,777	
Italia	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	
Alemania	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	
Estados Unidos	3,513,086	1,896,327	1,616,759	
Francia	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	
Bélgica	2,507,327	2,561,985		$54,658
Brasil	1,040,970	1,173,924		132,954
España	645,742	915,567		269,825
Paraguay	292,607	345,705		53,098
Uruguay	129,607	119,892	9,715	
Holanda	27,356	18,445	8,911	
Portugal	23,733	21,348	2,385	
Chile	19,082	7,341	11,741	
Bolivia	7,556	6,447	1,099	
Las Antillas	4,275	7,000		2,725
Otros países	14,598	28,207		13,609
Total	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	

El Ministro BUCHANAN hace comentarios sobre lo que él considera el aspecto más interesante de la cuestión manufacturera, á saber: el efecto que la rápida elevación en el valor del papel moneda del país ha tenido sobre el arancel de aduanas, y se expresa así: "Los fabricantes y productores de este país están invariablemente opuestos á cualquier plan que tienda á aumentar el valor del papel moneda del país. En el caso de los fabricantes, el 'oro barato,' ó sea la elevación en el valor del papel, equivale á una reducción en los derechos sobre los efectos importados, y esto afecta su negocio, porque bajo tales condiciones encuentran que es más difícil competir con los artículos importados, que cuando el precio de oro es muy alto. Tengo la convicción de que el aumento en las importaciones, al cual se ha hecho referencia, habría sido mucho mayor, si este Gobierno no hubiera mantenido durante este año el derecho de aduana provisional del 10 por ciento, establecido en setiembre próximo pasado como una medida de guerra."

El Ministro presenta un ejemplo del efecto que ha tenido sobre las mercancías importadas, la elevación en el valor del papel moneda, y al mismo tiempo, de las razones que inducen á los fabricantes argentinos á desear moneda barata. El informe completo puede verse en los Consular Reports correspondientes al 10 de julio de 1899.

CONDICIONES Y PORVENIR AGRÍCOLAS.

El Cónsul británico en Buenos Aires dice, en su informe correspondiente al año de 1898 (Annual Series, Number 2219), que por término medio el año fué bueno para la agricultura en la República, y que el trigo se vendió muy bién. Agrega que se había cosechado mucho trigo en el año de 1898-99, y que, aunque era difícil predecir con certeza á cuánto ascendería la exportación, se creía sin embargo, en la fecha del informe, marzo de 1899, que podía considerarse como seguro que habría un excedente de 1,500,000 toneladas para la exportación, después de haber tomado lo necesario para el consumo del país.

El 1° de junio de 1899, la Junta Nacional de Agricultura publicó un informe estadístico respecto de la última cosecha de trigo, del cual aparece que hasta fines de mayo la producción ascendía á 1,834,067 toneladas. Se dice también en dicho informe que hay que tomar en cuenta el trigo que aun no había sido cosechado, así como lo incompleto de algunos de los datos obtenidos, todo lo cual tiende á probar que la cosecha excedió de 2,000,000 de toneladas. Lo incierto del tiempo hasta el 1° de junio impidió la recolección de muchas cosechas, y según avisos privados, no es justo estimar la cantidad total en solo 2,000,000 de toneladas. El informe contiene los siguientes datos:

	Área en hectáreas.	Rendimiento en toneladas.	Promedio en kilos.
Buenos Aires	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fe	981.013	763,655	778
Córdoba	366,698	340,711	929
Entre Ríos	142,962	117,608	893
Total	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

Por decreto de 8 de mayo de 1899, se ha organizado por el Gobierno argentino en los puertos de Buenos Aires, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolás y Villa Constitución, un servicio de inspección para el trigo y el maíz. Dicho servicio fué establecido con el objeto de certificar que el grano llena las condiciones necesarias para la trasportación y exportación á mercados extranjeros. La inspección no será obligatoria, y solamente se verificará á solicitud de los dueños ó consignatarios, y mediante el pago de 10 centavos por cada mil kilogramos. Los considerandos del decreto indican que su objeto es regularizar las transacciones, evitar en cuanto sea posible medidas restrictivas que pudieran impedir la exportación de granos á los mercados extranjeros, y finalmente, estimular la producción de granos de superior calidad en la República Argentina. También se desea que la inspección, que actualmente se limita al trigo y al maíz, tenga por objeto principal certificar oficialmente que estos productos son sanos, secos y limpios.

En el informe, ya citado, del Cónsul británico, se hace referencia, al hablar de los rápidos progresos que se han hecho y siguen haciéndose en la mejora de las razas de ganados en la Argentina, al hecho de que los que se dedican á la cría de animales en la Gran Bretaña, harían bien en conservar la buena calidad de los que exportan á aquella República, porque en muchas de las estancias argentinas se producen en la actualidad animales de tan fina calidad como los importados. Dice además el informe que por algún tiempo la República Argentina será un excelente mercado para los que se dedican á la cría de ganado vacuno y de ovejas de superior calidad, especialmente estas últimas, y que gran cuidado debe ponerse en escoger las mejores castas inglesas, si se desea conservar su reputación en el mercado.

Los Señores GIBSON BROTHERS de Buenos Aires, publicaron, con fecha 1° de junio, una circular en la que estiman en 555,000 pacas la exportación de lana del Río de la Plata durante la pasada estación. Esta compañía dice que está segura de que se mantendrán firmes los precios de las lanas finas y de las mezcladas de calidad superior durante la estación venidera, debido á que la producción de estas clases de lanas en la Argentina ha disminuido, pués la tendencia ha sido á producir clases más ordinarias, y asimismo á que la producción de Australia se ha reducido á causa de la mortandad en los rebaños.

Como los Estados Unidos son un país que produce y exporta cereales, productos de esta clase no se han introducido de los países del Plata, pero de aquellos productos que son considerados como agrícolas, se han exportado de la República Argentina á los Estados Unidos, durante el primer trimestre del año en curso, las cantidades siguientes: de Buenos Aires: lanas, $201,935.91; cueros secos, $667,676.46; tasajo (á la Habana, Cuba), $59,329.05; pieles de cabra, $47,894.03; de nutria, $25,205.06; de ternero, $10,789.03; de carnero, $4,247.30; de carpincho, $2,100; de venado, $1,245.75; de cabrito, $933.66; pelo, $20,264.18;

huesos, $17,517.35; otros productos animales, $27,412.98; plumas de avestruz, $2,288.76.

Del Rosario: cueros secos, $326,549.89; lanas, $108,742.25; pieles de cabra, $199,030.81; otras pieles, $22,744.38; pelo, $21,769.55; otros productos animales, $711.53; plumas, $550.53: total exportado por ambos puertos, $1,768,938.46.

DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS SOBRE BUENOS AIRES.

En la ciudad de Buenos Aires se publican cada mes los datos estadísticos obtenidos por la municipalidad. Se acaba de recibir dicha publicación correspondiente al mes de abril de 1899, y su contenido es realmente muy significativo. La población de Buenos Aires era en aquella fecha de 774,000 habitantes. El elemento extranjero parece aumentar, tanto en número como en influencia. Los nacimientos durante el mes de abril fueron 2,690 y las defunciones 1,009. La mortalidad entre los niños fué muy grande: incluyendo los que nacieron muertos, la mortalidad ascendió á 419 antes de la edad de 5 años. Entre los adultos, las enfermedades de los pulmones fueron las más fatales. Se atribuyen á enfermedades contagiosas y epidémicas 167 fallecimientos.

En cuanto á los nacimientos, dice el periódico "The Buenos Aires Standard," que de un total de 2,690, no menos de 1,444 fueron de padres extranjeros, y 331 de padres argentinos y madres extranjeras. Los nacimientos de padre y madre argentinos ascendieron á 318, ó sea una pequeña fracción del total. Otro punto notable es que del total de los que murieron más de la mitad fueron argentinos, de donde resulta que tanto los fallecimientos como los nacimientos tienden á la diminución del elemento nativo, y de esta manera la próxima generación mostrará un cambio notable.

ESTABLECIMIENTO DE UNA FÁBRICA DE PAPEL.

El periódico "The Wood Pulp News," de Nueva York, correspondiente al 29 de junio de 1899, dice que, según parece, los rumores que por algún tiempo han circulado, respecto del establecimiento de una fábrica de papel cerca de Buenos Aires, están en vía de convertirse en hecho positivo. El lugar escogido para dicha fábrica queda sobre la ribera derecha del río Paraná, y muy cerca de la línea principal de ferrocarril entre Buenos Aires y Río Janeiro, de suerte que la transportación por tierra y por agua será muy fácil. La proyectada fábrica será construida por una compañía que se formará con un capital nominal de £180,000. La maquinaria que se va á emplear será la más perfecta que se conoce, capaz de producir diariamente 20 toneladas de papel para periódicos, papel de escribir y otras clases. Los promotores de la empresa esperan poder suplir el mercado local y exportar gran cantidad de papel á las Repúblicas vecinas.

BOLIVIA.

EXPORTACIÓN DE MINERAL DE PLATA Á LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El primer cargamento de plata y mineral de plata que probablemente ha llegado á los Estados Unidos de la costa occidental de la América del Sur, se recibió en la ciudad de Filadelfia el 18 de julio del año corriento. En esa fecha el vapor inglés *Kentigern* trajó 16,239 sacos de mineral de plata de superior calidad, y 600 barras de plata, valorados en más de $150,000, además de varios otros productos cuyo valor ascendió á $160,000 más. El vapor salió de Guayaquil el 25 de abril é hizo escala en varios puertos sudamericanos, donde recibió carga.

La plata proviene de ricas minas en los Andes bolivianos, las cuales son explotadas por ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y de la Gran Bretaña. Hay que llevar el mineral en mulas á Antofagasta, que es el puerto más inmediato. La falta de fundiciones hace indispensable la exportación del mineral fuera de la República, pero es éste de calidad tan superior, que puede competir, á pesar de los gastos que su transportación ocasiona, con minerales inferiores de otros países.

BRASIL.

COMERCIO CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Mr. Frank D. Hill, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Santos, en un informe dirigido al Departamento de Estado (Advance Sheets Consular Reports, No. 473), da un cuadro de la importación y exportación entre los Estados Unidos y el Brasil durante un período de diez años, por el cual se ve que si la exportación á los Estados Unidos ha disminuido, la cantidad que de este país se importa en el Brasil ha permanecido comparativamente estacionaria. La verdad es que en los años de 1891 y 1894 la importación de los Estados Unidos excedió á la de 1898, y también superó como en $13,000,000 al promedio de todos los diez años. Mr. Hill dice que la causa principal de este estado de cosas es la difícil situación económica ocasionada por la baja en el precio del café. Esto no solamente ha reducido el valor de la exportación del Brasil, sino también los recursos de los comerciantes para hacer sus compras en el exterior. Es digno de observarse que si bien los Estados Unidos han conservado su posición en cuanto al tráfico con el Brasil, la Gran Bretaña ha perdido considerablemente, si se compara la situación actual de sus relaciones comerciales con lo que eran en 1893.

En el curso de su informe Mr. Hill se expresa de esta manera:

"En orden á establecer relaciones comerciales con la América del Sur, el pueblo de los Estados Unidos debería emplear los mismos méto-

dos que emplean los europeos, á saber: el establecimiento de líneas de navegación á vapor y de casas de comercio administradas por americanos. Una vez que los Estados Unidos se encuentren en las mismas condiciones que otras naciones, el resto se puede dejar á la iniciativa de muestros comerciantes."

DEMANDA DE ESPEJOS.

El Cónsul de Francia en Río Janeiro, en su informe anual, últimamente publicado en París por el Gobierno francés, dice que los espejos se venden muy bien en el Brasil. Según los datos estadísticos presentados por este funcionario, la importación de espejos en el año de 1898 fué como sigue: de Alemania, 326,576 kilogramos; de Inglaterra, 49,667 kilogramos; de Francia, 35,273 kilogramos, y de Bélgica, 26,260 kilogramos. Los márcos de calidad superior vienen generalmente de Francia y los de inferior calidad de Alemania. El dorado alemán se considera muy inferior al francés, y por eso los espejos alemanes son mucho más baratos y se venden con más facilidad, aunque duran mucho menos. Los derechos de aduanas sobre pinturas, espejos y vidrio para los mismos, de menos de 15 decímetros cuadrados, son de 1 franco á 1 franco 30 céntimos por kilogramo, según la condición de los márcos. Para tamaños mayores los derechos son de 50 por ciento ad valorem. Los derechos sobre márcos armados y molduras son de 2 francos por kilogramo.

LA COMPAÑÍA TELEGRÁFICA DEL AMAZONAS.

El periódico "The Electrical World and Engineer," correspondiente al 22 de julio, dice que, después de haber encontrado con muchas dificultades, la Compañía Telegráfica del Amazonas ha resuelto abandonar el cable en el río de las Amazonas desde Para á Manaos. La compañía, sin embargo, está estableciendo una línea terrestre que prestará los mismos servicios que el cable. Ha emitido bonos por la suma de $600,000, con el interés del 5 por ciento, y se asegura que el Gobierno del Brasil ha otorgado á la compañía una subvención de $85,625 al año por el espacio de doce años.

FÁBRICA DE HIELO EN PARÁ.

El "Journal of Commerce," de Nueva York, en su número correspondiente al 21 de julio, dice que los Señores G. Amsinck & Co. van á enviar á Pará todo lo necesario para el establecimiento de una fábrica de hielo que produzca 10 toneladas al día. Esta fábrica será la sexta que se haya establecido en dicha ciudad, y todas juntas pueden producir 40 toneladas diariamente. En la actualidad se embarca en Pará considerable cantidad de hielo para varias partes del Brasil. Se cree que la industria de hielo promete mucho en otros puntos de la República.

CHILE.

LA MINA DE AZOGUE DE PUNITAQUE.

Dice el periódico "The Mining and Engineering Review," correspondiente al mes de julio, que algunos capitalistas de San Francisco han obtenido el privilegio de explotar la famosa mina de azogue de Punitaque, cerca de Coquimbo, en la provincia del mismo nombre de la República de Chile. Esta mina está situada á 4 millas solamente del ferrocarril que une á Coquimbo con Santiago. Fué descubierta en 1785, y el virrey español de aquella época, en un informe á su Gobierno, dijo que esta mina era la joya más preciosa de la corona de España. El mineral contiene de 5 á 10 por ciento de azogue. La propiedad pertenece á la familia del finado JUAN M. LUCO, que fué Cónsul de Chile en los Estados Unidos, y el privilegio de explotación ha sido obtenido por J. M. TINOCO, Cónsul General de Costa Rica.

COMERCIO CON LA GRAN BRETAÑA EN 1899.

Según los datos publicados por la Cámara de Comercio de la Gran Bretaña, el tráfico de dicho país con la República de Chile durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, comparado con el del mismo período en 1898, fué como sigue, en moneda de los Estados Unidos:

IMPORTACIÓN DE CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Trigo	$24,948.25	$565,662.77
Mineral de cobre	950,183.82	355,748.39
Régulo y precipitado de cobre	353,801.99	333,350.20
Cobre no labrado y parcialmente labrado	1,960,579.52	1,555,061.68
Total	3,289,513.58	2,809,823.04

EXPORTACIÓN Á CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en pieza, no blanqueados	$204,571.51	$158,256.92
Géneros de algodón en pieza, blanqueados	385,708.36	413,926.29
Géneros de algodón en pieza, estampados	292,913.74	327,914.87
Géneros de algodón en pieza, teñidos	287,843.36	256,929.67
Géneros de lana, en pieza	154,962.64	188,411.52
Géneros de estambre, en pieza	176,110.27	176,825.57
Alfombras	33,770.04	49,370.44
Hierro y acero y sus manufacturas	417,203.29	461,029.17
Total	1,953,183.21	2,032,664.45

CUBA.

ENTRADAS DE ADUANAS EN 1899.

Las entradas totales de las aduanas en los diferentes puertos de Cuba durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, ascendieron á $7,084,168.51. De esta cantidad, $6,227,098.37 fueron el producto de los derechos de importación; $388,801.11 de los de exportación; $14,512.81 provinieron de la capitación; $74,898.99 de los impuestos para mejora de los puertos; $5,857.27 de los impuestos sobre el tonelaje de cabotaje; $229,181.89 de los impuestos sobre el tonelaje extranjero; y $140,095.07 de otras fuentes. El número de buques pertenecientes al tráfico de cabotaje y exterior que entraron á los puertos de Cuba y salieron de ellos durante los primeros seis meses de 1899, fué como sigue: número total de buques ocupados en el tráfico de cabotaje, 4,527; total de buques extranjeros que entraron á los puertos de la isla, 2,228. Total del tonelaje de cabotaje, 729,988 toneladas. Total del tonelaje extranjero, 2,477,340 toneladas. Total de los buques de cabotaje que salieron de los diferentes puertos, 4,459. Total de los buques extranjeros que fueron despachados, 2,128. Total del tonelaje de cabotaje despachado, 746,558 toneladas. Total del tonelaje extranjero despachado, 2,352,668.

ESTABLECIMIENTO ELÉCTRICO EN MATANZAS.

Algunos empleados de la compañía del Ferrocarril Eléctrico de Milwaukee, Racine y Kenosha han obtenido el derecho de opción por seis meses sobre terrenos en Matanzas, Cuba, valorados en $750,000, y en los cuales, en caso de comprarlos, piensan construir un gran establecimiento de alumbrado eléctrico y un almacén de suficiente capacidad para contener los productos de todos los alrededores. También se construirá un sistema de ferrocarril eléctrico de Matanzas á los pueblos vecinos. Se espera que los carros comenzarán á correr el 1° de enero de 1900.

EXPLOTACIÓN DE NUEVAS MINAS DE HIERRO.

Dice el "Engineer and Mining Journal," en su número del 15 de julio, que la "Cuban Steel Ore Company" se ha organizado en Filadelfia. Según el prospecto de dicha compañía, se propone explotar dos grupos de minas de hierro que quedan á 45 millas al oeste de Santiago, en la provincia del mismo nombre, y construir un ferrocarril como de 10 millas de largo, que una las minas con la bahía de Chivirico, así como con los muelles, diques, etc. Se dice que estas minas cubren como 2,100 acres y que se extraerán de ellas, en el trascurso de corto tiempo, más de 20,000 de toneladas de mineral. Este mineral es considerado como Bessemer de calidad superior.

ECUADOR.

CAMPO PARA INSTALACIONES ELÉCTRICAS.

Contestando, con fecha 12 de junio de 1899, á las preguntas que le ha dirigido una casa de Nueva York, Mr. PERRY M. DELEON, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Guyaquil, dice que no se usa en aquella ciudad la electricidad como fuerza motriz, y que hay poca demanda por artículos eléctricos. Opina el Cónsul, sin embargo, que hay excelente campo para el establecimento de luz eléctrica y de ferrocarriles urbanos, también eléctricos. Dice que la ciudad ha progresado mucho; que tiene una población de cerca de 50,000 habitantes, y que, con la construcción del proyectado ferrocarril á Quito, tiene que aumentar en población y en riqueza. En la actualidad, el alumbrado que se usa es de gas de muy inferior calidad, y le cuesta á la municipalidad considerables sumas anualmente. Un sistema de tranvías atraviesa casi toda la ciudad, pero la tracción, que se hace por medio de mulas, es costosa.

Se dice que la condición económica de la ciudad es excelente. Las acciones de la compañía de ferrocarril urbano se cotizaban á 50 centavos el peso en 1896, pero existe ahora una reserva en caja igual á 50 por ciento del capital. Los dividendos declarados son de 15 por ciento al año, y en la época en que Mr. DELEON escribió, las acciones valían $150 cada una. El combustible es escaso y costoso, pero hay cerca de la ciudad agua en abundancia que se puede usar como fuerza motriz. En 1896 se estaba estableciendo un servicio de luz eléctrica, pero la gran incendio que destruyó 83 manzanas en la mejor parte de la población, incluyendo dichas instalaciones, dió por resultado el abandono de la empresa. El distrito destruido está casi completamente construído con edificos de mejor condición, y cree Mr. DELEON que el momento es oportuno para el establecimiento de un sistema en que se combinen los trasportes con el alumbrado.

EL TRÁFICO DE MAQUINARIA.

En contestación á una pregunta que le dirigió una casa de Massachusetts, el Cónsul-General DE LEÓN escribe de Guayaquil que no hay gran tráfico de maquinaria en el Ecuador. Mr. MANN, natural de Escocia, tiene talleres en Guayaquil. Hay también unas pocas fábricas, refinerías de azúcar y otros establecimientos que usan fuerza de vapor en la ciudad y en la provincia. Se dice que la compañía denominada "Ecuador Development Company," cuya dirección es 33 Wall street, New York City, está contratando varias locomotoras y otros enseres para el ferrocarril de Guayaquil y Quito. La mayor parte de dichos enseres se pide á los Estados Unidos directamente ó por medio de agentes. W. R. GRACE & CO., FLINT, EDDY & CO. y otras casas comerciales, tienen

agentes en Guayaquil. No existen depósitos de maquinaria ó accesorios dignos de mencionarse, y los pedidos se hacen por medio de catálogos. A veces se conceden seis meses de crédito, pero la regla es que se pague al contado por dichos efectos. Los importadores generalmente exigen dinero contante ó una garantía de primera clase de la parte de sus parroquianos.

Según lo manifestado por el Cónsul, la importación de maquinaria de vapor y accesorios de los Estados Unidos, en 1898, ascendió á cerca de $40,000 oro, y como $20,000 fué el valor de lo que se importó de Europa en esta clase de artículos. Opina el Señor DE LEÓN que las dos cosas que se necesitan para aumentar el tráfico de los Estados Unidos con la costa occidental de la América del Sur, son agentes comerciales competentes y fletes moderados. Dice, por ejemplo, que el ferrocarril de Panamá cobra 47½ centavos por pie cúbico, mientras que GRACE & Co. y FLINT, EDDY & Co., cobran de 25 á 30 centavos por pie cúbico, por la vía del estrecho de Magallanes. El Cónsul termina su informe con estas palabras: "Un canal por el istmo es una necesidad vital, y solamente cuando esté construido podrán los Estados Unidos tener en esta costa el tráfico de que deberían disfrutar."

MÉXICO.

SINOPSIS DE LA LEY SOBRE FERROCARRILES DE 1899.

El Departamento de Estado de los Estados ha recibibo del General POWELL CLAYTON, Embajador americano en México, copia y traducción de la nueva ley sobre ferrocarriles de la República, promulgada el 29 de abril de 1899. Esta ley es bastante extensa y está calculada para abrazar todo lo que se relaciona con el otorgamiento de concesiones. Refiriéndose á esta nueva disposición del Gobierno mexicano, el Embajador dice que hasta ahora cada concesión ha sido objeto de una ley especial. En lo futuro, la ley general se aplicará á todas las nuevas concesiones, así como á las que antes se habían otorgado y que no estén en desacuerdo con las disposiciones de la presente ley. La nueva ley hace más difícil el obtener concesiones acompañadas de subvenciones, y acentúa el dominio que el Gobierno ejerce sobre las compañías.

Los ferrocarriles son divididos en dos clases, los de interés general y los de interés local. Solamente los primeros pueden recibir subvenciones. Entre los de interés general, la ley señala algunos de suma importancia que aun están por construirse, tales como las líneas que unirán los ferrocarriles centrales con el océano Pacífico, el istmo de Tehuantepec, Yucatán y Guatemala. Las líneas de primera importancia pueden recibir subvenciones. Otras líneas proyectadas pueden ser declaradas de primera importancia, si el Gabinete lo aconsejare así. Antiguamente

la inspección ejercida por el Gobierno era simplemente técnica, y se limitaba á mantener la regularidad en el tráfico y á velar por la seguridad de los pasajeros. En lo futuro, los inspectores nombrados por el Gobierno podrán pedir cuenta de las operaciones económicas de las compañías, sus emisiones de acciones y obligaciones y la amortización de éstas. Tendrán derecho de examinar los libros y todos los papeles de la compañía. Esta inspección se ejerce también sobre la formación de nuevas compañías. En lo de adelante, cada compañía debe someter primero al Gobierno un cálculo del trabajo que deberá ejecutarse en el proyectado ferrocarril, y la cantidad de acciones que han de emitirse será determinada de conformidad con la obra proyectada. El objeto que se tiene en mira es impedir la formación de compañías con un capital social desproporcionado á la empresa. Esta ley prohibe, bajo pena de caducidad, el vender ó hipotecar las concesiones á un Gobierno extranjero. Cualesquier acciones, bonos ú obligaciones que compre un gobierno extranjero, caducarán á favor del Gobierno mexicano. Las propiedades pertenecientes á los ferrocarriles en México estarán sujetas á las disposiciones del Código Civil del Distrito Federal, excepto en casos determinados por algunas leyes especiales.

Quedan abolidas las leyes de 25 de diciembre de 1877 y de 16 de diciembre de 1881, con excepción del artículo que se refiere á la adquisición de líneas de telégrafo y teléfono por el Gobierno.

Para la conveniencia de las personas que deseen conocer el texto de la ley, tanto el original en español como una traducción al inglés, se han depositado en los archivos de la Oficina de Comercio Extranjero del Departamento de Estado en Wáshington.

NICARAGUA.

EMBARQUES DE MINERALES DE ORO Y DE PLATA.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," correspondiente al 15 de julio, publica una comunicación de su corresponsal en Nicaragua, en la cual se dice que los Señores ALLEN & FULKS han hecho el primer embarque de mineral de su mina El Mico, con destino á la Omaha and Grant Smelting Company, de Denver, Colorado. El ensayo de este cargamento, que consta de 16 sacos, ha dado por resultado 12.05 onzas de oro y 13.6 de plata por tonelada. Los Señores ALLEN & FULKS esperan hacer pronto otro embarque mayor.

SANTO DOMINGO (REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA).

ASESINATO DEL PRESIDENTE HEUREAUX.

El General ULISES HEUREAUX, Presidente de la República Dominicana, fué asesinado en Moca, pueblo que queda como á 40 millas al sur de Puerto Plata, el 26 de julio del año en curso. El Presidente se

disponía á salir para Santiago cuando fué muerto, mientras se encontraba en el corredor de una casa de la calle de Colón conversando con varios amigos. Una bala le hirió en el corazón, causándole muerte instantánea, y otra bala mató á un anciano que estaba á su lado. El hecho se verificó tan rápidamente, que las personas allí presentes no tuvieron tiempo de impedirlo. El Vicepresidente de la República, General WENCESLAO FIGUERO, tomó inmediatamente posesión de la presidencia.

ULISES HEUREAUX nació en Puerto Plata, en la costa occidental de Santo Domingo, en 1846. Entró al servicio militar como soldado raso cuando tenía 16 años de edad, pero pronto fué nombrado Comandante del Distrito de Puerto Plata. Peleó en la guerra contra España de 1868 á 1874; fué desterrado dos veces por causas políticas, y durante dos años permaneció retirado á la vida privada. En 1878 sofocó una rebelión del elemento español; fué herido varias veces y estuvo á punto de ser asesinado. En 1882 fué electo Presidente de la República para suceder á FERNANDO A. MERINO, y fué reelecto cuatro veces, la última en 1898. En 1894 hizo fracasar una conspiración para asesinarle, al frente de la cual se hallaba un individuo llamado BOBADILLA.

DERECHOS PAGADEROS EN ORO.

El Departamento de Estado ha recibido un informe de Mr. CAMPBELL L. MAXWELL, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Santo Domingo, bajo fecha 24 de junio de 1899, en el que avisa que el Congreso dominicano ha emitido una ley ordenando que los derechos de importación se paguen en oro americano, ó en la moneda del país, de la cual seis pesos corresponden á un peso en oro. Antes de esta fecha, un peso en oro correspondía á dos pesos en moneda dominicana. La mencionada ley debía comenzar á tener efecto el 1° de julio de 1899.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 175 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, cuyo jefe es Mr. O. P. AUSTIN. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de junio de 1899, corregida en julio 27 del mismo año, comparada con la del período correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los nueve meses que terminaron en junio de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas

aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Ministerio de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de junio, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en julio.

IMPORTACIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DURANTE EL AÑO QUE TERMINÓ EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 1899.

Los cuadros estadísticos de la importación y exportación de los Estados Unidos en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fueron terminados, y de ellos dió al público el 27 de julio un resumen el Jefe de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda. Las cifras contenidas en este resumen, comparadas con las del año anterior, ofrecen detalles interesantes. El valor de la importación aumentó en más de $81,000,000, mientras que el de la exportación disminuyó en más de $4,000,000. En cuanto á las clases de artículos importados en 1898 y 1899, la división es como sigue:

IMPORTACIÓN.

	1898.	1899.
Substancias alimenticias y animales vivos	$181, 205, 834	$211, 869, 918
Artículos en estado crudo para el uso de las industrias nacionales	201, 428, 375	221, 998, 377
Artículos en todo ó parte manufacturados para el uso de las industrias y artes mecánicas	58, 584, 559	60, 712, 518
Artículos manufacturados listos para ser usados	97, 382, 404	108, 621, 406
Artículos de lujo	77, 448, 472	93, 914, 635
Importación total	616, 049, 654	697, 116, 854
Por ciento libre de derechos	47. 3	43. 07
Derechos recaudados	$149, 819, 594	$206, 507, 812
Mercancías extranjeras en almacenes	$37, 726, 964	$35, 956, 021

EXPORTACIÓN.

Productos agrícolas	$853, 683, 570	$784, 999, 009
Productos de las manufacturas	290, 697, 354	338, 667, 794
Productos de las minas	19, 410, 707	28, 832, 547
Productos de la pesca	5, 435, 483	6, 025, 446
Productos varios	3, 164, 628	3, 281, 134
Exportación total de productos nacionales	1, 210, 291, 913	1, 204, 123, 134
Artículos extranjeros reexportados	21, 190, 417	23, 082, 285
Exportación total	1, 231, 482, 330	1, 227, 205, 419

La importación y exportación, divididas en grandes secciones, fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europa	$305, 933, 691	$353, 885, 064	$973, 806, 245	$936, 781, 169
América del Norte	91, 376, 807	112, 133, 871	139, 627, 841	157, 931, 409
América del Sur	92, 091, 694	86, 576, 020	33, 821, 701	35, 660, 932
Asia	92, 594, 593	107, 081, 421	44, 707, 791	48, 360, 161
Oceanía	26, 859, 230	26, 997, 508	22, 003, 022	29, 874, 993
Africa	7, 193, 639	10, 442, 970	17, 515, 730	18, 594, 424

En cuanto á los países, la importación y exportación á los de la América del Norte fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
América Inglesa	$32,242,601	$31,586,332	$84,889,819	$89,573,609
Islas Bermudas	459,282	494,812	986,915	1,065,388
Antillas Inglesas	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,386,240	8,751,817
Belize (British Honduras)	171,920	198,203	576,111	499,839
Total de fuentes británicas	43,505,990	46,429,829	94,839,085	99,890,653
México	19,004,863	22,994,091	21,206,930	25,480,281
Costa Rico	2,732,426	3,581,899	1,520,161	1,241,191
Guatemala	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,201,714	1,102,779
Honduras	784,741	911,849	752,203	831,998
Nicaragua	1,095,865	1,514,630	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haiti	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Santo Domingo	2,382,139	3,125,695	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba	15,242,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Puerto Rico	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,946	2,685,848
Antillas Danesas	327,759	599,328	707,622	498,066
Antillas Holandesas	174,243	246,902	544,463	474,435
Antillas Francesas	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,542,984
Miquelon, Langley, etc.	61,030	86,283	205,005	194,624

La importación de los diferentes países de la América del Sur y la exportación á los mismos fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
República Argentina	$5,915,879	$5,112,561	$6,429,070	$9,563,510
Bolivia			20,675	31,298
Brasil	61,750,369	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chile	3,736,307	2,931,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombia	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador	765,590	1,054,653	855,193	882,621
Guayana Inglesa	3,060,968	3,500,207	1,747,375	1,749,545
Guayana Holandesa	1,457,135	1,651,009	408,414	443,757
Guayana Francesa	12,551	37,929	150,041	170,090
Paraguay		160	699	10,751
Perú	714,247	1,496,978	1,302,695	1,325,650
Uruguay	1,772,480	1,281,109	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,746,261	2,851,634

En 1898 se exportaron á las Islas Falkland mercancías por valor de $1,010, pero en 1899 no hubo con dichas islas tráfico de exportación ó importación.

ESTADÍSTICA FERROCARRILERA.

Los intereses ferrocarrileros de los Estados Unidos son tan vastos, representan un capital tan inmenso y ejercen una influencia tan grande en el comercio, no sólo de este país sino del mundo entero, que merecen se les consagre especial atención.

El 15 de julio de este año la Comisión de Comercio entre los Estados (Interstate Commerce Commission) publicó su informe relativo á los ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos para el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898. A esa fecha había 186,396 millas ferrocarrileras abiertas al tráfico. El capital invertido, sin incluir el pasivo, ascendía á $10,-

818,554,031; esta cantidad representaba un valor por milla de $60,343. El capital en acciones era de $5,388,268,231, de cuya suma $1,118,996,607 era en acciones privilegiadas. La cantidad correspondiente á la deuda consolidada era de $5,430,285,710, comprendiendo hipotecas y obligaciones menores. Solamente 29.61 por ciento de las acciones pagaban dividendos, y 11.34 de los bonos hipotecarios no pagarón intereses. Las entradas totales de todos los ferrocarriles en una extensión de 184,648 millas, fueron de $1,247,325,621, lo cual es un aumento de $125,235,848 sobre el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1897. Los gastos de la administración durante el mismo período fueron de $817,973,276, lo cual representa un aumento de $65,448,512, comparado con el año precedente.

Las entradas totales se dividen como sigue:

Pasajeros, $266,970,490; aumento, $15,834,563: correos, $34,608,352; aumento, $853,886: expreso, $25,908,075; aumento, $1,007,009: otras entradas por servicio de pasajeros, $7,224,000: carga, $876,727,719; aumento, $103,878,405; otras entradas por servicio de carga, $4,683,205; aumento, $473,548: otras entradas no especificadas, $31,203,780.

Los gastos de administración durante el año fueron como sigue: mantenimiento de las vías férreas y construcciones, $173,314,958; aumento, comparado con el año precedente, $13,880,555. Mantenimiento de los equipos, $142,624,862; aumento, $19,682,504. Trasportes, $464,674,276; aumento, $32,148,414. Gastos en general. $36,476,686; diminución, $4,583. Las entradas totales fueron, por término medio, $6,755 por milla, y los gastos, $4,430 por milla. Estas cantidades exceden á las correspondientes para el año de 1897 en $633 y $324, respectivamente.

El número de pasajeros durante el año fué de 501,066,681, lo que muestra un aumento, comparado con el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1897, de $11,621,483. El número de toneladas de carga durante el año fué de 879,006,307, ó sea un aumento de 137,300,361. El número de toneladas de carga que se llevó por milla fué de 617,810, lo cual es un aumento de 93,731 sobre el año de 1897.

El número de personas empleadas por los ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos, según el informe de 30 de junio de 1898, era de 874,558, lo que equivale á 474 empleados por cada cien millas. De estos empleados, 1,958 fueron muertos y 31,761 estropeados durante el año. El número de pasajeros que murieron en el año fué de 221, y los estropeados ascendieron á 2,945. Las cifras correspondientes al año anterior fueron 222 muertos y 2,795 estropeados. A consecuencia de colisiones y descarrilamientos, murieron 72 pasajeros y fueron dañados 1,134. El número total de personas muertas en las vías férreas, sin contar empleados ó pasajeros, fué de 4,680, y el de las estropeadas ascendió á 6,176. De cada 2,267,270 pasajeros, uno fué muerto, y de cada 170,141 uno fué estropeado. De cada 447 empleados, uno fué muerto, y de cada 28, uno fué estropeado.

El periódico "The Railroad Gazette" de Nueva York, ha hecho un examen preliminar relativo á las nuevas construcciones de ferrocarriles

en los Estados Unidos durante los primeros seis meses de 1899, y encuentra que á pesar de la actividad que se ha desarrollado en esta materia, el número total de millas actualmente en construcción no es enteramente satisfactorio. Dicho total es de 1,181.45 millas, número que se elevará cuando se obtengan los datos más recientes. Esto muestra un aumento de cerca de 90 millas sobre las cifras preliminares del año pasado; pero juzgando por las millas que están en construcción, las operaciones son más extensas que el año anterior, y es seguro que el total mostrará un aumento considerable sobre las 3,300 millas construídas en 1898. The "Gazette" dice, por ejemplo, que de las 247 millas que tiene en construcción el ferrocarril Chicago and Northwestern, solamente 4 millas fueron incluidas en el informe correspondiente á la primera mitad del año. La segunda mitad del año es la época de las construcciones ferrocarrileras, y en el último año se construyeron en esos seis meses como dos millas por cada milla construida antes del 30 de junio.

El mismo periódico, correspondiente al 2 de junio, contiene un cuadro en el que se ponen de manifiesto las millas de ferrocarril que han estado abiertas al tráfico en los diferentes países, de 1893 á 1897. Según estos datos, había en el mundo 454,730 millas de caminos de hierro en 1897, y el aumento desde 1893 hasta el año que se acaba de mencionar fué de 37,458 millas, ó sea 8.9 por ciento. La América, incluyendo la del Norte y la del Sur, así como las Antillas, tenía algo más de la mitad del total, 236,218 millas. Tomando á cada país por separado, los Estados Unidos poseían con mucho el mayor número de millas, pero el aumento en este país, de 1893 á 1897, fué solamente de 3.6 por ciento, ó sean 6,559 millas. Viene en seguida entre las grandes naciones, el imperio alemán con 29,880 millas, y á continuación en el órden en que se expresan los países siguientes: Rusia, Francia, Inglaterra é Irlanda, la India, Austria-Hungría, la América Inglesa, Italia y la República Argentina.

En este cuadro, México figura con 7,384 millas de ferrocarril, la América Central, con 644; las Antillas, exceptuando á Cuba y Santo Domingo, con 582; Santo Domingo, con 117; Cuba, con 1,104; los Estados Unidos de Colombia, con 346; Venezuela, con 633; el Brasil, con 8,657; la República Argentina, con 9,422; el Uruguay, con 1,118; el Paraguay, con 157; Chile, con 2,662; el Perú, con 1,035; Bolivia, con 621; el Ecuador, con 186, y la Guayana británica con 22.

En proporción á la extensión del país, Bélgica es la nación que tiene mayor millas de ferrocarril, 32.2 por cada cien millas cuadradas del territorio, y á continuación vienen la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda con 17.55 millas por una extensión igual.

CONDICIÓN DE LAS PRINCIPALES COSECHAS EL 1° DE AGOSTO DE 1899.

Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura, el promedio de la condición de las principales cosechas era, el 1° del mes de agosto, como sigue: Maíz, 89.9; trigo de prima-

vera, 83.6; avena, 90.8; cebada, 93.6; centeno de primavera, 89; trigo sarraceno, 93.2; patatas, 93; heno (*timothy hay*), 86.7.

La condición de la cosecha de maíz en aquella fecha era 2.9 puntos más alta que en la fecha correspondiente de 1898, y 3.2 puntos arriba del promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante los últimos diez años.

El promedio de la condición del trigo de primavera era 12.9 puntos más bajo que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 0.3 puntos menos que el promedio durante diez años. El promedio de la avena era 6.6 puntos más alto que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 8.3 puntos sobre el promedio medio por diez años. La cantidad de la cosecha de avena del año pasado, que todavia permanece en poder de los agricultores, se calculo en 6.9 por ciento, lo cual es el promedio usual. La condición de la cebada fué 14.3 puntos más alta que en el mismo período en 1898, y 8.6 puntos sobre el promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante los últimos diez años. El promedio de la condición del centeno de primavera era 1.5 puntos sobre el promedio medio durante diez años, pero era 4.7 puntos más bajo que el promedio en el mes de agosto de 1898.

Los informes preliminares recibidos indican un aumento de sietedécimos de 1 por ciento en cada acre sembrado de trigo sarraceno, en comparación con el año anterior. El promedio de la condición fué 6 puntos más alto que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 2.2 puntos sobre el término medio por diez años.

El promedio en la cosecha de patatas durante el mes fué de 9.1 puntos sobre el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 6.9 puntos sobre el promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante diez años. En cuanto á la cosecha de batatas, las indicaciones son que se mantendrá en el término medio.

Con respecto al heno, los informes recibidos parecen indicar una reducción de 3.4 por ciento en el total. La condición de la clase conocida con el nombre de *timothy hay* era 12.6 puntos menos que en 1898.

SOLICITUDES DE PATENTES EN 1898-99.

Por el informe anual del Honorable CHARLES H. DUELL, Comisionado de Patentes de los Estados Unidos, se ve que durante el año pasado se recibieron 35,352 solicitudes de patentes, de las cuales 2,292 fueron para modelos, 91 para renovaciones de patentes, 1,861 para marcas de fábrica, 612 para etiquetas, 112 para impresiones, y 1,610 para registros de peticiones (*caveats*), lo cual da un gran total de 41,930 solicitudes de toda clase. Se emitieron 25,406 patentes, todas las cuales, menos unas 2,000, fueron privilegios de invención. Durante el año expiraron 16,670 patentes; más de 4,000 fueron retenidas por falta de pago de los derechos, y más de 8,000 solicitudes fueron otorgadas, pendiente el pago de los derechos finales.

PRODUCTOS MINERALES Y METALÚRGICOS EN 1898.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," correspondiente al mes de julio, contiene un resumen de los datos estadísticos sobre la

producción mineral y metalúrgica de los Estados Unidos en 1898. Las cifras allí presentadas muestran que el valor total de estos productos en el año en referencia, fué de $709,816,750, contra $648,804,899 en 1897. La producción comprende $65,082,430 en oro, y 58,763,127 onzas de plata. La cantidad de carbón de piedra producida fué de 218,106,519 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ó sea un aumento de 173,000 toneladas sobre el año anterior. La cantidad de hierro en lingotes fué de 11,773,934 toneladas, que es la mayor que en un solo año se ha producido en el país. La producción de cobre, acerca de la cual se dan informes en otro parte del BOLETÍN MENSUAL, es la mayor de que existe recuerdo, y fué mucho más que la mitad del producto total del mundo entero. Otros productos importantes fueron los siguientes: plomo, 228,475 toneladas de 2,000 libras; zinc, 114,104 toneladas; 30,493 frascos de azogue, y 51,774,465 barriles de petróleo. La variedad de productos de menor importancia se deja ver por el hecho de que la tabla contiene 103 artículos diferentes. Además de los minerales del país, se refinaron y prepararon para el mercado en este país, extraídas de minerales y de barras que se importaron, las siguientes cantidades: oro, $22,024,960; plata, 39,784,000 onzas; cobre, 36,055,352 libras; plomo, 89,209 toneladas, y níquel, 7,127,784 libras.

IMPORTACIÓN DE CAFÉ EN 1898 Y 1899.

La Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos da el total de las importaciones y reexportaciones de café, así como la importación neta durante los años económicos de 1898 y 1899. He aquí las cifras en referencia:

Importación en 1898, 870,514,455 libras; importación en 1899, 831,820,341 libras; reexportación en 1898, 18,823,371 libras; reexportación en 1899, 30,070,195 libras; importación neta en 1898, 851,690,084 libras; en 1899, 801,750,145 libras; valor total en 1898, $62,674,181; en 1899, $52,369,360; valor por libra en 1898, 7.3 centavos; en 1899, 6.5 centavos. Las importaciones fueron de los países siguientes:

	1898.		1899.	
	Cantidad.	Valor.	Cantidad.	Valor.
	Libras.		*Libras.*	
Gran Bretaña	1,796,985	$254,206	4,465,794	$494,553
Francia	859,419	62,173	92,319	8,255
Alemania	7,334,801	538,717	2,138,780	209,399
Holanda	2,409,967	361,095	3,655,289	404,137
Otros países de Europa	2,427,854	136,902	390,660	22,041
América Central	35,862,385	4,459,183	45,298,800	5,368,711
México	34,511,168	3,599,392	27,324,827	2,686,248
Las Antillas	6,412,209	673,800	11,701,201	745,622
Brasil	661,008,372	40,956,963	628,417,812	35,250,010
Otros países de la América del Sur	90,113,241	9,276,212	90,332,351	7,217,590
La India	21,311,159	3,603,055	10,498,299	1,502,493
Otros países de Asia y Oceanía	4,947,018	918,104	5,290,163	840,736
Africa	42,305	6,040	642,003	104,971
Otros países	1,477,592	221,789	1,572,041	216,880
Total	870,514,455	65,067,631	831,820,341	55,274,646

La cantidad importada en 1897 fué de 737,645,670 libras, valoradas en $81,544,384, ó sea algo más de 11 centavos por libra. La tabla anterior muestra que más de el 75.5 por ciento de toda la cantidad recibida en 1899 vino del Brasil, y 86.25 por ciento de la América del Sur, tomada en grupo. Se comprende, desde luego, que solamente una diminución en la cosecha del Brasil podría elevar el precio del café.

PRODUCCIÓN DE TE.

Durante la primera semana del mes de julio, el Ministerio de Agricultura en Washington fué informado de que se había puesto en venta en el mercado de Nueva York, te producido en los Estados Unidos, cosa que no había ocurrido antes en la historia del país. Fué producido este te en una plantación perteneciente al Dr. CÁRLOS U. SHEPARD, en Pinehurst, á 20 millas de Charleston, S. C., donde se han estado haciendo experimentos desde hace 20 años en el cultivo del te. Esta plantación fué establecida primitivamente por el Ministerio de Agricultura, y ha recibido siempre la ayuda del Gobierno. En los últimos años el Dr. SHEPARD obtuvo una pequeña cosecha, toda la cual fué distribuida en la plantación misma entre sus parroquianos. Sin embargo, la última cosecha fué demasiado grande para esa clase de tráfico, y se remitió una parte de ella á Nueva York, donde fué vendida al por mayor y después al por menor. Se da á este artículo el nombre de te americano, y se vende á precios más altos que las mejores clases del Japón y de la China.

Aunque los productores japoneses y chinos gozan de las ventajas que les dan el clima y la experiencia, el Dr. SHEPARD puede aprovechar algunas condiciones que existen solamente en los Estados Unidos, y las cuales le colocan en situación igual á la de sus competidores extranjeros. Los productores japoneses y chinos se ven obligados á hacer uso de métodos muy costosos para empacar el te á fin de exportarlo; tienen que cubrirlo con hoja de estaño, con varias capas de tejido de junco y otros artículos en órden á conservar el gusto natural y otras calidades de la planta. Se sabe que un viaje por mar es muy nocivo por el te, pues lo priva de su sabor natural y lo daña de otras maneras. El te que el Dr. SHEPARD cultiva no tiene que luchar con estas desventajas y su calidad no sufre en manera alguna.

Hace algunos años, el Ministerio de Agricultura distribuyó varias plantas de te en algunos de los estados del sur, con el objeto de estimular el cultivo de este artículo. Con excepción del Dr. SHEPARD, nadie se dedicó seriamente á este cultivo. Él, sin embargo, lo inició en pequeña escala, y con el apoyo atrás mencionado, logró establecer una industria que ahora le produce buenas ganancias. Entre los problemas que había que resolver, era el de saber si se podía cultivar el te en un distrito donde caían anualmente 56 pulgadas de agua, pues en Asia se sostiene que la planta necesita de 80 á 100 pulgadas de agua por año, y que mientras más llueve al principio del año el resultado es mejor.

En alguno de los distritos de Asia mejor adecuados para la producción de te, caen 120 pulgadas de agua al año. El Dr. SHEPARD ha descubierto además que, según autoridades en la materia, la temperatura no debe nunca bajar de 40° Fahrenheit. En Pinehurst la temperatura suele bajar á 15° Fahrenheit en el invierno. A fin de aprovechar las lluvias y distribuir proporcionalmente las aguas, los terrenos fueron desaguados, arados y removidos hasta una profundidad de 18 pulgadas, y se empleó un sistema general de cultivo superficial á fin de conservar la humedad del suelo, humedad correspondiente á 10 ó 15 pulgados de lluvia.

La cuestión del trabajo fué muy seria, y se demostró que costaría ocho veces más en South Carolina que en Asia cultivar una libra de te. Se comprendió que era cosa fuera de cuestión el mantener un gran número de trabajadores para cortar de tiempo en tiempo las hojas que llegaban á madurez. Con este motivo, el Dr. SHEPARD adoptó una especie de plan de kindergarten é hizo que muchos niños de color asistieran gratis á su escuela. Les ensañaba á leer y escribir, en pago de lo cual los niños debían cosechar el te, recibiendo, además de su enseñanza, suficiente dinero para pagar por su alimentación y vestido. Algunos de estos niños se han hecho muy diestros en el trabajo, aunque ninguno ha llegado á tener la abilidad de los peritos de China y el Japón.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, del Ministerio de Agricultura, persona entendida en horticultura, visitó últimamente la mencionada plantación de te, y al presentar su informe acerca de ella, dijo lo siguiente sobre el porvenir de la industria de te en los Estados Unidos:

"Nadie debe esperar buen éxito en este cultivo, si no cuenta con la experiencia necesaria en cuanto se relaciona con todos sus detalles. Es un trabajo especial y requiere estudios especiales, que deben hacerse en el terreno mismo donde se ejecutan todas las operaciones. El estudiante debe comenzar por el principio, esto es, desde que se siembra la semilla, y continuar su estudio hasta el momento en que se empaca la hoja. La cuestión del trabajo se presenta siempre, y es evidente que para que la industria sea lucrativa debe producirse un artículo de superior calidad. En órden á obtener este último, se necesita más trabajo en escoger las hojas que cuando se obtiene un te de inferior calidad, en el cual van mezcladas hojas menos tiernas y más duras."

PRODUCCIÓN DE COBRE EN LOS AÑOS DE 1898 Y 1899.

La producción de cobre en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898 fué la mayor de que hay en recuerdo. Según los datos obtenidos de los productores, el total ascendió á 239,241 toneladas, ó sean 535,900,232 libras de cobre fino. Esto fué un aumento sobre 1897 de 15,415 toneladas, ó sean 34,529,937 libras, esto es, 6.8 por ciento. El aumento fué casi en la misma proporción que en 1897 sobre 1896, pero fué mucho menos que en 1896 sobre el año precedente. Se importaron en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898 unas 38,922,552 libras de cobre.

El metal viene principalmente en barras de México y de la Columbia Británica para ser refinado en este país. La exportación en el mismo año ascendió á 133,822.68 toneladas, ó sean 290,765,054 libras, esto es, como 55 por ciento de la producción total. El consumo, según los datos obtenidos, fué casi el mismo que en el año anterior.

Los datos estadísticos sobre el metal en referencia, durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, según han sido compilados por el "New York Metal Exchange," son como sigue: producción nacional, según los informes de los productores, 124,487 toneladas (278,850,880 libras); importaciones del exterior, 13,908 toneladas (3,115,392 libras); total, 138,395 toneladas (309,966,272 libras). Las remesas durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio, calculadas en toneladas de 2,240 libras, fueron las siguientes: exportación á Europa, 51,723; exportación á las posesiones ingleses de Norte América, 220; exportación á México, 50. Mineral conteniendo 25 por ciento de sulfato de cobre se exportó en cantidad de 7,640 toneladas, ó sean 1,910 toneladas de metal puro. La exportación total fué de 53,903. El consumo en el país ascendió á 72,000 toneladas; las remesas totales fueron de 125,903 toneladas. La producción nacional muestra un aumento de 4,000 toneladas, en comparación con el mismo período de 1898, pero si se compara con la última mitad de dicho año, el aumento es de 10,702 toneladas. La cantidad de mineral conteniendo sulfato de cobre, que se exportó, muestra un aumento de 820 toneladas, en comparación con el mismo período de 1898. Las remesas para el consumo interior fueron muy fuertes durante el segundo trimestre de este año. En el término de seis meses, el aumento sobre el mismo período en 1898 fué de 18,000 toneladas, pero si se compara con la segunda mitad del año, dicho aumento es de 12,000 toneladas. El exceso de la oferta sobre la demanda fué de 12,492 toneladas, la mayor parte de cuya cantidad fué enviada á nuevos establecimientos de refinación.

Uno de los cargamentos de cobre más curiosos que han llegado á los Estados Unidos, vino por el vapor *Cevic* al puerto de Nueva York el 25 de julio de 1899. Consistía en 9,999 sacos, ó sean 250 toneladas de monedas de cobre de la India, consignadas á la Oxford Copper Company. Estas monedas van á ser derretidas, y se dice que valen más en la forma de metal en barra que en la de moneda. Cuando el cobre estaba á 10 centavos la libra, se obtenía una ganancia acuñándolo para el Gobierno de la India, pero el cambio en el precio de dicho metal ha alterado esas condiciones. Se asegura que monedas de cobre de la China y probablemente de otros países, podrían traerse para fundirlas, y que esto reportaría considerables ganancias.

DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS SOBRE INMIGRACIÓN.

La inmigración en los Estados Unidos, durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fué mayor que en cualquier otro año desde 1896, y el número de inmigrantes excedió en 80,000 á los que llegaron en 1898. Mr. TERRENCE V. POWDERLY, Comisionado de la

Inmigración en los Estados Unidos, terminó la compilación de los datos correspondientes á cada puerto del país el 11 de julio, y encontró que 311,715 inmigrantes habían desembarcado durante los doce meses. De estos, 195,277 fueron personas del sexo masculino, y 116,458 del sexo femenino. En 1898 el gran total fué de 229,999; en 1897, de 230,832; en 1896, de 343,267; en 1895, de 258,536, y en 1894, de 285,631. La inmigración en los últimos dos meses de mayo y junio fué notablemente grande, pues en el primero de dichos meses ascendió á 54,154 personas, y en el segundo á 40,033. Si esa proporción continuase durante el presente año económico, el número de inmigrantes pasaría de 550,000.

En años anteriores, la Oficina de Inmigración tomaba nota del país de donde cada inmigrante llegaba, pero durante el año pasado se ha tomado nota de la nacionalidad ó raza á que cada cual pertenecía. Hasta últimamente, por ejemplo, no se sabía cual era el número de judíos que llegaban, por que había entre ellos alemanes, rusos y polacos. Durante los últimos doce meses, 37,415 judíos fueron admitidos en los Estados Unidos. Los italianos ocupan el primer lugar en la inmigración: el número total que vino de la parte norte de Italia fué de 65,639, y del sur del mismo país, 13,091, ó sean 78,730 inmigrantes. De Irlanda llegaron 32,345 personas, de las cuales 18,625 fueron del sexo femenino, y 13,700 del sexo masculino. Este es el único país de donde vinieron más mujeres que hombres. De todos los países del mundo, con excepción de Valaquia, llegaron inmigrantes á los Estados Unidos. De Africa vinieron 412 personas de raza negra, y también fueron admitidos 1,638 chinos, entre los cuales hubo 11 mujeres.

INDUSTRIA DE HIGOS DE ESMIRNA EN CALIFORNIA.

En el mes de junio de este año, el Ministerio de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos publicó un Boletín en el que trata del éxito probable que tendrán los esfuerzos de dicho Ministerio para establecer en California la industria de higos de Esmirna. Según parece, para que el higo de Esmirna dé fruta, se necesita introducir y aclimatar en Californie un pequeño insecto (*Blastophaga*) de la Europa meridional, que fecundiza la fruta. Los primeros ensayos en la introducción de dicho insecto se verificaron en 1898, y se ha conseguido que algunos de los que se trajeron entonces hayan penetrado en las flores aun cerradas de los higos de Capri que crecen en Fresno, de suerte que los primeros experimentos han dado buenos resultados. El Boletín agrega lo siguiente: "Desde que el insecto ha logrado mantenerse por un año entero, hay razones para creer que continuará procreando, y que California podrá dentro de poco tiempo llevar al mercado higos que posean el mismo sabor delicado que ha dado á los higos de Esmirna importados un puesto tan prominente en elmercado."

PRODUCCIÓN DE PLOMO.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," que se publica en Nueva York, ha compilado datos fidedignos sobre la producción de

plomo en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898. Según esta autoridad, la producción total en dicho año fué de 238,000 toneladas, lo cual es un aumento de cosa de 29,000 toneladas sobre el año de 1897. El Estado de Colorado contribuyó principalmente á dicho aumento, pués produjo 56,700 toneladas, ó sean 16,000 toneladas más. Idaho, que ocupó el segundo lugar, produjo 56,300 toneladas, lo cual demuestra una diminución de cerca de 1,400 toneladas respecto del año anterior. Por otra parte, Utah, cuyas fundiciones rindieron 45,000 toneladas de plomo, aparece con un aumento de 6,400 toneladas. En la parte sudeste del Estado de Missouri, donde se produjeron 35,000 toneladas, el aumento fué solamente de 1,500 toneladas. También se llama la atención al hecho de que mientras la fundición de quijos domésticos produjo mucho más plomo, la cantidad de este metal obtenida de quijos importados, cantidad que agregó 89,000 toneladas al total, disminuyó en 2,900 toneladas durante el año.

PRODUCCIÓN DE CAFÉ EN HAWAII.

Mr. CASPAR WHITNEY, corresponsal especial del periódico "Harper's Weekly," ha publicado últimamente en dicha revista una serie de artículos sobre las Islas de Hawaii. Refiriéndose á los productos de estas nuevas posesiones de los Estados Unidos, dice Mr. WHITNEY que el café, especialmente en la Isla de Hawaii, va á contribuir más que cualquiera otra cosa al desarrollo del país. En todas las islas se encuentran buenos terrenos para café, pero la de Hawaii es la única de todo el grupo que tiene terrenos baldíos. El café de major calidad se produce en el distrito de Kona, en la isla de Hawaii, á una altura de 2,000 á 2,500 pies sobre el nivel del mar. Los principales distritos cafetaleros en la Isla de Hawaii son: Kona (48,000 acres), Puna (67,000 acres), é Hilo (195,000 acres); pero solamente una pequeña parte de estas regiones ha sido plantada de cafetos ó ha resultado aparente para su cultivo. En los tres distritos mencionados, especialmente en Hilo, el Gobierno ha estado preparando los terrenos para la colonización con la mayor rapidez posible. Recibe el Gobierno solamente de cinco á diez pesos por acre, mientras en Hilo, los especuladores venden los terrenos á 50, 60 y hasta 100 pesos por acre. Se calcula que al comprador le cuesta el desmontar y limpiar estos terrenos de 30 á 40 pesos per acre. Según cálculos cuidadosamente hechos, se cree que el costo de mantener por cinco años una plantación de café es de $150 á $200 por acre.

Casi todas las buenas tierras de las islas están arrendadas por largo tiempo, y algunas hasta por 30 años, que se considera el período mayor que puede durar un cafeto bajo cultivo. En las Islas de Maui, Kaui Oahu se han sembrado café y se esperan excelentes resultados. Los plantadores se proponen sembrar plátanos entre los cafetos, haciendo de este modo que el terreno les rinda doble utilidad, sin que sufra daño alguno ni una ni otra planta. Se espera que cada acre de terreno producirá media tonelada de café y 300 racimos de plátanos.

Mr. WHITNEY calcula que la cosecha de café asciende á 3,000 sacos por año, pero indudablemente la producción es mayor. Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos para el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898, la cantidad de café exportada de las Islas de Hawaii á los Estados Unidos fué de 704,113 libras, ó sean 5,334 sacos de 132 libras cado uno. En el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de mayo de 1899 (página 1949) se estima la cosecha total en 5,500 sacos, y probablemente el número será mayor en el año corriente. El precio del café de Hawaii en 1898, según los datos suministrados por las aduanas, fué de 15.67 centavos por libra, ó sea algo más de dos y media veces el valor del café brasileño, por termino medio, y solamente tres centavos menos por libra que el café de Arabia, el cual, por ser el más escaso, se considera el mejor que se produce.

CONDICIÓN AGRÍCOLA DE PUERTO RICO Y POSIBILIDADES PARA LO FUTURO.

Mr. WILLIAM DINWIDDIE, que ha pasado algún tiempo haciendo investigaciones acerca de los recursos de la Isla de Puerto Rico, ha escrito un interesante libro que fué publicado últimamente por Harper Brothers, de Nueva York, con el título de "Puerto Rico, Its Condition and Possibilities." Dedica el autor considerable espacio á las ventajas que el país ofrece para la inversión de capitales, pero agrega que "no es tierra aparente para los pobres, por muy ambiciosos que sean."

Refiriéndose á las oportunidades que se ofrecen á los capitalistas, el escritor dice que aquéllos que puedan invertir dinero encontrarán que las plantaciones de caña de azúcar, de café y de tabaco, así como las lecherías son negocios lucrativos. El cultivo de frutas aun no se ha desarrollado, y el negocio de maderas no es muy halagador.

La isla no presenta facilidades de transportes; no tiene establecimientos de luz eléctrica ni fábricas de hielo. En opinión del autor, la cría de ganado ofrece grandes ventajas, porque en el país abundan los pastos y hay mucha agua. No prevalecen aquellas condiciones climatológicas que dan por resultado las sequías.

Uno de los obstáculos que desde luego se presentan es el precio elevado de los terrenos, que cuestan como 100 pesos por acre. La industria de café ocupa el primer lugar, y los terrenos aparentes para este cultivo se venden á un precio de 20 á 500 pesos por acre. Este último precio se paga por plantaciones de cinco años de edad, que esten situadas cerca de los caminos reales, y de las cuales es muy fácil la transportación á la costa del mar. Se cree que ninguna sección del país es superior á otra con respecto al suelo, porque todos los distritos montañosos son muy fértiles, pero las facilidades para transportar las cosechas son mejores en algunas regiones que en otras.

Mr. DINWIDDIE da sus cálculos relativos al costo y cultivo de una plantación de 100 acres, así como á las ganancias que probablemente se

obtendrían de la misma, ganancias que están basadas, sin embargo, sobre el supuesto precio de 15 centavos por la libra de café. Este último es indudablemente demasiado alto, pués el promedio por libra del café de Puerto Rico importado en los Estados Unidos en 1898 fué de 13.39 centavos. Según el autor, una plantación debe dar fruto dentro de cinco años, después de lo cual ha de rendir de 500 á 1,000 libras por acre. El autor describe el método de cultivo, así como el modo de recoger las cosechas y de pulir el grano, dándole el color azulado que tanto aprecian en el mercado francés. Mr. DINWIDDIE calcula la producción anual en 55,000,000 libras, pero según los cálculos hechos por los españoles en el año de 1898, fué sólamente de 26,400,000 libras (véase el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de mayo de 1899, página 1949).

El café de Puerto Rico es muy estimado en Francia, Alemania, Austria y España. Francia toma el de mejor calidad, mientras que España compra las clases inferiores. Durante muchos años la Isla de Cuba ha importado café.

Al hablar del cultivo de la caña de azúcar y de la manufactura de azúcar, el escritor se expresa así: "Puerto Rico debe de ofrecer un vasto campo á los hombres que, durante un siglo, han estado luchando en Louisiana para cultivar la caña de azúcar bajo condiciones artificiales." En los pequeños ingenios de azúcar se usan los métodos más primitivos y se emplean los antiguos trapiches de madera, movidos por bueyes. El jugo de la caña se cuece en una sola paila destinada al efecto. En algunas partes del país existe lo que se llama el sistema de fábrica central, pero la industria en general se encuentra en condición lamentable, á causa de la falta de maquinaria moderna. Se dice que la tierra produce doble más caña que la de los Estados Unidos, y la planta da retoños durante cuatro años por lo menos.

Por lo que hace al tabaco, se cree que puede producirse también como en la Isla de Cuba.

URUGUAY.

ENSAYOS EN EL CULTIVO DE ARROZ.

Con fecha 30 de mayo de 1899, el Honorable WILLIAM R. FINCH remitió al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington el siguiente recorte de un periódico de Montevideo, que muestra la sorprendente producción de arroz en el Departamento de Rivera:

"Por primera vez, el Señor JUAN LEMOS sembró un kilogramo y medio de arroz, lo cual le produjo 150 kilogramos, ó sea una ganancia de ciento por uno. Una muestra de dicho arroz ha sido examinada y declarada de la mejor calidad. Impulsado por este espléndido resultado, el Señor LEMOS aumentará sus trabajos el año próximo. Si el entusiasmo respecto de este producto sigue en aumento, el Departamento de Rivera será uno de los más ricos del país, debido á su clima y á su suelo."

VENEZUELA.

NUEVO ARANCEL.

General IGNACIO ANDRADE, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, en uso de la facultad que le conceden los artículos 4 y 12 de la novísima ley de arancel de derechos de importación sancionada por el Congreso Nacional en sus sesiones ordinarias del presente año:

"DECRETA: ARTÍCULO 1.—Se permite la importación por las aduanas de la República de los revólveres de todas clases, y de las cápsulas para los mismos, previo el requisito establecido en el artículo 5 de la ley arancelaria para la introducción de armas de fuego. Los revólveres pagarán á su entrada el derecho señalado en la ley á los artículos de 8ª clase, y las cápsulas el señalado á los artículos de 6ª clase.

"ARTÍCULO 2. Las mercaderías que á continuación se expresan, al ser introducidas por las aduanas de la República, se aforarán en la forma siguiente:

"El papel blanco de imprenta sin cola ó goma, comprendido en el número 31 del nuevo arancel de importación, se aforará en la 2ª clase y pagará doce y medio céntimos de bolívar el kilo.

"El aceite de comer ó de oliva comprendido en el número 32 se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar el kilo.

" Las botellas comunes de vidrio negro ó claro ordinario, y las canecas en que viene ordinariamente la ginebra, comprendidas en el número 13, se aforarán en la 1ª clase y pagarán dos céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

"Los instrumentos para artes y oficios con cabos ó sin ellos, y las cajas de madera con algunos de estos instrumentos, artículos todos que se encuentran comprendidos en el número 65, se aforarán en la 3ª clase y pagarán treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

"Las barrenas y taladros para perforar piedras y troncos, comprendidos en el número 113, se aforarán en la 2ª clase y pagarán doce y medio céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

" El aceite de linaza, comprendido en el número 183, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

"La sémola quebrantada para hacer fideos, comprendida en el número 233, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

" La manteca pura que no esté mezclada con otras grasas, comprendida en el número 249, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

"El aceite de almendras, comprendido en el número 295, se aforará en la 4ª clase y pagará noventa céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

" Las esencias, perfumería, extractos de todas clases, polvos de arroz perfumados, y otros semejantes, aguas de olor para tocador, pomadas, cosméticos, aceites y jabones perfumados, comprendidos en los números 295, 300, 301, 343, y 380, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

"La bayeta, en piezas, y las cobijas de esta tela comprendidas en el número 311, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

"El hilo de carta y de coser velas y todo hilo torcido en forma de cordón ó sean cordones de algodón blancos ó de color, ya tengan el torcido flojo para aplicarse á tejidos de mano, ya estén retorcidos como

cordeles para otros usos, comprendidos en el número 355, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

"Los satines ó rasos, nanzú, calicós, brillantinas, lustrillo, cretonas carlancanes, percales, piqués, merinos de algodón y los listados finos de algodón, ó sean los que tienen más de trece hilos de urdimbre y trama en cinco milímetros cuadrados y toda otra tela de algodón semejante, compredidas en el número 387, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

"Los sombreros de felpa de seda negra, copa alta, llamados de pelo negro y los demás sombreros de esta forma de cualquiera materia que sean, quedando comprendidos en esta clase los de resorte, los sombreros en cortes, los fieltros fulados y cualquiera otra clase de sombreros hechos ó á medio hacer, comprendidos en el número 500, se aforarán en 9ª clase y pagarán veinticuatro bolívares por kilo.

"Los cromos de todas clases, comprendidos en el número 509, se aforarán en la 5ª clase y pagarán un bolívar cincuenta céntimos por kilo.

"Artículo 3.—La nueva Ley de Arancel sancionada por el Congreso Nacional en sus sesiones ordinarias de este año, comenzará á regir el 1º de setiembre próximo venidero.

"Palacio Federal en Caracas, á 17 de junio de 1899.—Año 88º de la Independencia y 41º de la Federación."

LAS MINAS DE HIERRO DEL ORINOCO.

El periódico "The Iron World," correspondiente al 27 de julio de este año, dice que la Corte Suprema de Venezuela ha emitido su fallo en el litígio de la "Orinoco Iron Company" contra la corporación conocida con el nombre de "English Raleigh Syndicate," en favor de la compañía atrás mencionada. El litígio, que ha durado por algún tiempo, fué iniciado con el objeto de establecer el título de propiedad sobre ricas minas de hierro en el río Orinoco. La "Orinoco Iron Company" es una corporación organizada el el Estado de Wisconsin, de los Estados Unidos, y el fallo en referencia la pone en posesión de 14,000 acres de tierra rica en depósitos minerales. La concesión fué obtenida en 1883 por CYRUS FITZGERALD, que era administrador de la mina "El Callao," en Venezuela. Solamente unos pocos cargamentos de mineral de hierro han sido traídos á los Estados Unidos, pero se asegura que se están haciendo arreglos á fin de explotar las minas y establecer negocios sobre bases regulares. El ingeniero en jefe Mr. DAVID LAWSON, y sus asistentes, los Señores ROBINSON y LYLE, se encuentran en el local de las operaciones, y los trabajos han comenzado ya.

Refiriéndose al mineral extraído de dichas minas, Mr. S. NORTON, que las ha visitado dos veces con carácter profesional, dice que la veta mineral comienza en las montañas de Imataca, como á 54 millas de la desembocadura del Orinoco. Las primeras minas que se explotaron quedan cerca de la isla de Corisimo, y grandes barcos pueden acercarse á una distancia de 50 pies de la costa. En este punto el depósito mineral queda como á 1,600 pies del río, y como á 200 pies sobre su nivel, y aparece en la forma de capas de guijarros de cien libras á cien toneladas de peso, las cuales cubren la cima de las colinas en una

extensión de 3,000 pies de largo y 100 pies de ancho. Mr. NORTON opina que existen allí entre 150,000 y 200,000 toneladas de mineral de Bessemer, y cree que la veta tiene un espesor de doce pies. Al occidente de este lugar se encuentran capas minerales que se extienden por 35 millas. En esta dirección las colinas son cada vez más altas, y con el tamaño de éstas aumenta el de los depósitos minerales, siendo en algunos puntos la cabeza del filón de 100 á 300 pies de ancho, de suerte que millares de toneladas yacen en la superficie. Una muestra del mineral de Imataca fué analizada por Mr. CLEMENCE JONES, y Mr. JOHN BIRKINBINE hace referencia á ella en su informe al Departamento Geológico de los Estados Unidos. He aquí el resultado de su examen: Hierro metálico, 66.76; sílica, 0.69; cal, 3.28; manganeso, 0.07; azufre, 0.011; fósforo, 0.0327.

Por lo expuesto se ve que los minerales del Orinoco pueden venir á los mercados americanos á rivalizar con los que ahora se introducen en los Estados Unidos.

BANCO AMERICANO EN CARACAS.

Con fecha 5 de mayo de 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Maracaibo, ha dirigido un informe al Departamento de Estado referente al establecimiento en Caracas de una institución bancaria á cuya frente se halla Mr. GEORGE W. UPTON, ciudadano de los Estados Unidos. En una comunicación que ha dirigido al Señor Cónsul PLUMACHER, Mr. UPTON dice que el capital del banco será de 15,000,000 de bolívares ($2,895,000). El Banco se establecerá dentro de cuatro meses, y la concesión durará cincuenta años. Se ha solicitado del Gobierno que permita la introducción libre de derechos de los muebles y de los materiales necesarios para la construcción de los edificios. Agrega Mr. PLUMACHER que un establecimiento de esta clase en Maracaibo será lucrativo y facilitará el tráfico con los Estados Unidos.

PROYECTO DE NAVEGACIÓN INTERIOR.

Con fecha de 16 junio de 1899, el Honorable FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Venezuela, informa al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington respecto de un plan últimamente presentado al Gobierno, que tiene en mira el establecimiento del mayor sistema de navegación en el mundo. Se trata de unir por medio de canales los grandes ríos de la América del Sur, y de establecer así una vía fluvial desde el valle del Orinoco al del río de la Plata. Se calcula que el costo de este trabajo ascenderá á $200,000,000, lo cual, sin embargo, no pasa de ser una conjetura, puesto que no se han hecho estudios exactos á fin de determinar el costo probable de dicha obra. Es posible, agrega Mr. LOOMIS, que algunos de los gobiernos sudamericanos se ocupen sériamente en este asunto dentro de pocos años.

LAS CENIZAS DE UN GRAN DESCUBRIDOR.

Dice el periódico "The New York Tribune," en su número del 27 de julio, que el Gobierno de Venezuela ha dirigido últimamente una amistosa solicitud al de la República Dominicana relativa á los restos del famoso ALONZO DE OJEDA que descubrió á Venezuela, el Golfe de México y el lago de Maracaibo, y que murió y fué enterrado en territorio dominicano. Venezuela desea que las cenizas de este hombre ilustre sean llevados á Maracaibo, en el Estado de Zulia, cuyo Gobernador, el Dr. JESÚS MUÑOZ TEBAR, fué en un tiempo Ministro de Fomento. El finado presidente de la República Dominicana, M. ULISSE HEREAUX, sentía también profundo respeto por las tradiciones históricas y gustaba de preservar reliquias relacionadas con la historia de su país y con la de América en general. Hizo construir en Santo Domingo un hermoso mausoleo en el cual fueron depositados, en diciembre próximo pasado, los supuestos restos de CRISTÓBAL COLÓN. Estos, según la opinión que prevalece en Santo Domingo, son las verdaderas cenizas del gran Genovés, y solamente las de Diego, hijo de Colón, fueron llevadas de la Habana á la catedral de Sevilla, por las autoridades españolas cuando evacuaron la isla de Cuba. La prensa de Santo Domingo y la opinión pública aprobó la intención del Presidente HEREAUX de no acceder á la súplica del Gobierno venezolano, y lo probable es que los restos de OJEDA permanezcan en el lugar donde él murió.

EXPORTACIÓN DE HAMBURGO PARA TODA LA AMÉRICA.

Gracias á una atención del Dr. VERSMANN, Bürgermeister de Hamburgo, Alemania, la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha recibido datos estadísticos sobre el comercio y navegación de Hamburgo para 1898. En la siguiente tabla se verá las exportaciones de Hamburgo para los diferentes países del continente americano:

	Marcos.
América Inglesa	14,643,630
Estados Unidos (sobre la costa del Atlántico)	147,465,640
Estados Unidos (sobre la costa del Pacífico)	2,000,940
México (sobre la costa del Atlántico)	22,194,990
México (sobre la costa del Pacífico)	3,508,080
AMÉRICA CENTRAL.	
Guatemala	3,524,960
Belize	54,930
Honduras	692,040
Salvador	1,046,540
Nicaragua	871,390
Costa Rica	2,017,690
Puerto Rico	2,238,740
Cuba	1,653,490

	Marcos.
Barbados	119,860
Haití	1,045,460
Santo Domingo	1,542,760
Jamaica	458,840
Trinidad	341,830
Bahamas	28,460
Otras islas	86,640
San Tomas	463,390
Curazao	373,420
Guayana	216,560
Venezuela	6,577,750
Colombia (sobre el Mar Caribe)	5,660,240
Colombia (sobre la costa del Pacífico)	1,031,050
Paraguay	223,190
Brasil	68,332,760
República Argentina	36,989,840
Islas Falkland	7,670
Uruguay	8,623,950
Chile	31,734,430
Bolivia	2,926,560
Perú	8,066,980
Ecuador	4,195,800

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

El Boletín de la Sociedad de Geografía de Neufchatel (Tomo XI, 1899) contiene una revista de las más interesantes escrita por Mme. Lina Beck Bernard, y cuyo título es el siguiente: "Las Misiones Francesas del Desierto Argentino."

La autora presenta un cuadro maravilloso de aquel inmenso territorio, que se extiende desde las costas del Atlántico hasta la cresta de los Andes; habla de su vegetación, de los ríos que lo atraviesan y de las selvas impenetrables que cubren sus riberas; de los numerosos animales de todas clases, así como de las infortunadas razas de seres humanos que los primeros conquistadores del Nuevo Mundo no pudieron ni someter ni civilizar, y que pueblan aquellas fértiles planicies; de las infructuosas tentativas de los jesuitas, quienes á pesar de sus inmensas riquezas y de un poder absoluto, han visto desaparecer su obra, y hace un elogio pomposo de aquellos misioneros franciscanos, que, desprovistos de todo, no temieron enfrentarse á todos los peligros para venir á plantar en estas regiones salvajes el estandarte de la civilización y consagrarse á convertir á esta raza bárbara.

Mme. Lina Beck Bernard publica también en esta revista un extracto de la correspondencia del Padre Constancio Ferrero, en su carácter de Prefecto de las Misiones. Esta correspondencia, cuyos originales están escritos en italiano y en español, ha sido traducida al francés, y da una idea de los inauditos trabajos que se llevaron á efecto, del valor y actividad de aquellos hombres atrevidos y abnegados que

sufrieron todas las privaciones y todas las fatigas por llegar al fin que se habían propuesto. En dicha revista se da una descripción minuciosa y clara sobre el carácter y las costumbres de los indios que habitan aquellas regiones, así como acerca del Gobierno que los rige.

La isla de Puerto Rico estaba primitivamente cubierta de bosques que se extendían desde la orilla del mar hasta la cima de las montañas. Es dudoso si existía un solo palmo de su territorio que no hubiese estado cubierto por una vegetación que comenzaba con los diminutos mangles que crecen á lo largo de la costa, y se desarrollaba hasta manifestarse en árboles seculares, que unían sus copas con las gigantescas palmeras que crecen hasta sobre los picos de las cordilleras. Aunque hay en la isla todavía algunas hermosas selvas, éstas no son de gran importancia desde el punto de vista comercial. En enero de 1899, Mr. ROBERT P. HILL, geológo de la oficina de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, hizo un viaje á través de Puerto Rico, durante el cual se familiarizo con sus bosques, y mediante averiguaciones hechas entre las personas que se dedican al tráfico de madera, obtuvo muchos informes sobre la calidad de las varias maderas nacionales y sobre el uso á que se las puede dedicar. El resultado de las observaciones de Mr. HILL ha sido publicado en "El Boletín No. 35" de la Sección de Selvicultura del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, con el título de "Notas sobre la condición de los bosques de Puerto Rico," obra que está ahora en prensa y que pronto verá la luz pública. El informe contiene no solamente una relación sobre los recursos forestales del país y sus selvas, sino también una descripción de las montañas, valles, carácter geológico, suelo y flora de la isla. Se da en detalle una descripción de quince diferentes maderas de Puerto Rico. En el estudio y descripción de las maderas, de las cuales se dan quince grabados en el Boletín, Mr. HILL tuvo la cooperación de Mr. GEORGE D. SUDWORTH, dendrólogo de la Sección de Selvicultura. Los grabados que representan las maderas fueron obtenidos por medio de impresiones hechas directamente en pedazos de las mismas maderas. El Boletín contiene un frontispicio, ocho láminas y nueve grabados en el texto.

"La Carta Meteorológica de los Grandes Lagos" para el mes de junio, publicada por la Oficina de Meteorología de los Estados Unidos, muestra la caída anual de agua y nieve en la hoya de desagüe de los grandes lagos de la parte septentrional de los Estados Unidos, y da una serie de cuadros, con un breve resumen preparado por Mr. A. G. HENRY. El resultado á que se ha llegado es que la influencia de dichos lagos sobre las lluvias, tanto en los Estados Unidos como en el Canadá, no es tan grande como generalmente se creía, y he aquí algunas líneas textuales á ese respecto: "Con excepción del lago Superior, los otros no parecen ejercer mucha influencia sobre las lluvias que ocurren en las tierras adyacentes. Dichas lluvias son mayores al sur que al norte de los lagos Superior, Erie y Ontario. En cuanto al lago Superior, la diferencia es

como de 8 pulgadas, mientras que el promedio al sur de los lagos Erie y Ontario es como de 3 pulgadas más que al norte. En la costa oriental de los lagos Michigan y Huron llueve más que en la costa occidental, pero esta circunstancia no es tan notable como en los otros casos mencionados. La caída de agua es menor en la parte superior de la península de Michigan que á lo largo de la costa, y en el interior de dicho Estado es mucho menor que en las costas de los lagos á uno ú otro lado."

En una obra titulada "Geschichtliches über die Entwickelung des 800 Jährigen Steinkohlenbergbaues an der Worms, 1113–1898," Herr FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, ingeniero de minas, de Aachen, Alemania, acaba de contestar una pregunta que ha ocasionado alguna discusión entre los periódicos mercantiles de Europa. La pregunta en cuestión es la siguiente: "¿En qué época los habitantes de Europa comenzaron á explotar minas de carbón?" Según antiguos anales escoceses, ya en el año de 1214, antes de que terminara el reinado de Guillermo el León, rey de Escocia, el negocio de carbón ocupaba la atención de los habitantes de la costa meridional de Firth of Fourth, y durante el mismo reinado se otorgó á los monjes de la Abadía de Holyrood, en Edimburgo, título de propiedad sobre la mina de Cariden. En opinión de sabios ingleses, ésta es la primera noticia que se tiene de la existencia de carbón de piedra. Sin embargo, algunos documentos alemanes descubiertos por Herr BUETTGENBACH, no dejan la menor duda de que en el distrito de Worms se encontraron y explotaron minas de carbón cien años antes, por lo menos, ó sea desde 1113. El citado autor publicó antes una obra sobre el mismo asunto.

El Profesor HEUSENS ha publicado un artículo en el periódico alemán geográfico, "Globus," en el cual hace cálculos relativos al promedio de valor de los productos del Mar del Norte, que, como se sabe, es una de las más grandes fuentes de riqueza del mundo en cuanto á la pesca. La cantidad de peces que se cogen en estas aguas representa un valor anual que no baja de $37,500,000, ni excede de $45,000,000. El promedio es como de $41,000,000. El Mar del Norte, incluyendo el Skager Rak, ó sea el golfo entre la parte meridional de Noruega y Suecia, tiene una área de 225,884 millas cuadradas, y por tanto, el valor anual de la pesca en dicho mar es de 18.15 por cada milla cuadrada. Inglaterra y Escocia toman la mayor parte de este producto, correspondiente á la primera $21,250,000 y á la segunda $6,650,000. La Holanda toma por valor de $4,750,000; Francia, $3,120,000; Alemania, $2,500,000; Noruega, $950,000; Bélgica, $900,000, y Dinamarca $400,000.

Á solicitud del Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Ministro de Gobernación de Guatemala, el Señor JOSÉ HORTA ha escrito un folleto de veinte páginas con el título de "El Hule en Guatamala." El objeto de esta publicación, que fué impresa en la Tipografía Nacional, es estimular el

cultivo del hule en la República. Se dice que un informe sobre este particular está en vía de preparación. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Guatemala, envió al Departamento de Estado una parte del folleto del Señor HORTA, traducida al inglés, y ésta fué publicada por la Oficina de Comercio Extranjero del Departamento de Estado, como correspondiente á los Consular Reports, No. 370. Á este respecto, se llama la atención á un artículo publicado en "De Indische Mercuur," de Batavia, Java, por M. ALBERTO, con este título "Recomendación del Hule de Guatemala."

Acaba de publicarse la obra titulada: "The Textile World's Directory," para el año de 1899, publicación anual que trata de la industria textil. Las tres secciones en que está dividida la obra contienen datos relativos á las fábricas de tejidos en este país y á sus equipos, así como á las direcciones de los agentes, vendedores y compradores de los mismos, y de los traficantes en materias primas. El trabajo ha sido hecho de una manera perfecta, y los informes en la obra contenidos son de fácil acceso, porque las materias están arregladas en órden alfabético, siguiendo los nombres de estados, ciudades y pueblos. Hay una serie de mapas incorporados en dicha publicación, los cuales indican la localización de las ciudades y pueblos donde existen dichas fábricas en los principales estados manufactureros del país.

Hace cinco años Mr. A. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Comisionado de Navegación de los Estados Unidos, dió principio al trabajo de compilación de las leyes de los Estados Unidos relativas á la navegación y á la marina mercante. El libro, publicado en 1895, fué tan útil como obra de referencia á las personas interesadas en dichos asuntos, y especialmente á los abogados que en ellos se ocupan, por la facilidad de obtener informes sin gastar horas enteras consultando los estatutos, que hubo mucha demanda por el mencionado libro. El Comisionado ha compilado una nueva edición, que acaba de ser publicada por la Oficina de Navegación, y en la cual están incorporadas todas las leyes hasta el 4 de marzo de 1899, época en que el último Congreso suspendió sus sesiones.

La Sección de Equipos Navales del Ministero de la Marina de los Estados Unidos acaba de preparar y publicar un mapa del mundo, de incomparable utilidad para los marinos. En el se hallan representadas por medio de signos, acompañados de la correspondiente explicación, todas las estaciones carboneras del mundo, en donde se puede conseguir siempre de 500 toneladas de combustible en adelante ó menos de esta cantidad; los muelles, diques y astilleros, con explicación de las dimensiones de los buques que admiten y los puertos donde se puede arribar para hacer reparaciones á los navíos, indicando más ó menos lo que en ellos se puede conseguir. La preparación y publicación de este mapa ha estado á cargo de la Oficina de Hidrografía de Wáshington.

Las actas de la Asociación de Fabricantes de Telas de Algodón de Nueva Inglaterra durante su reunión anual que se verificó en Boston en los días 27, 28 y 29 de abril de 1899, han sido publicadas por la Asociación en forma de folleto. Asistieron á la reunión 287 personas, entre miembros é invitados. Entre los numerosos escritos presentados á la Asociación sobre varios asuntos de interés especial, es de notar uno del Dr. WILLIAM P. WILSON, Director del Museo Comercial de Filadelfia, que lleva este título: "El Tráfico en Tejidos de Algodón con Nuestros Territorios Recientemente Adquiridos." Como el Dr. WILSON no estaba presente, el escrito fué leído por Mr. E. W. S. TINGLE, de Filadelfia.

Los administradores generales de la Exposición Pan-Americana que se verificará en la ciudad de Búffalo, Estado de Nueva York, durante el verano y el otoño del año de 1901, han comenzado á publicar un periódico para fomentar los intereses de dicha Exposición. El primer número de esta publicación, que es muy bien impresa y contiene hermosas ilustraciones, salió á luz el 15 de julio. Por ahora se publicará solamente dos veces al mes, los días 1º y 10. Más tarde y á medida que la Exposición vaya tomando mayor incremento, dicho periódico se publicará con más frecuencia y su tamaño será mayor.

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST ha publicado un libro de 98 páginas, con mapas, cuyo título es: "El Istmo de Panamá, Nicaragua, Rutas de Canal, etc." Esta obra es una compilación de varios artículos sobre este asunto, escritos en periódicos técnicos por éste y otros autores. También contiene la obra una colección de informes, cartas, etc., de varios ingenieros, viajeros y otros que han estudiado personalmente el proplema de canal. Además de las rutas de Panamá y Nicargua se habla de otras, tales como las de San Blás y Darién, y se menciona el proyecto de ferrocarril para buques por el istmo de Tehuantepec.

Un corresponsal del periódico "India Rubber World" escribe de Pará, con fecha de 1º de junio de 1899, que en 1900 "para conmemorar el cuadragentésimo aniversario del descubrimiento del Brasil, se publicará una obra, escrita por algunos de los más eminentes autores de la República, que será una descripción del país y sus riquezas. El Barón DE MARAJO preparará los capítulos que tratarán de la geografía del Brasil, y el Señor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO los que versarán sobre la historia completa de la goma elástica."

La publicación "The Monthly Weather Review" (Oficina Meteorológica de los Estados Unidos), correspondiente al mes de mayo, contiene un minucioso artículo con este título: "Condición climatológica del Istmo de Panamá," por H. T. ABBOTT, General de Brigada de los Estados Unidos (jubilado), con un importante apéndice por el Profesor A. J. HENRY. En el se dan datos sobre la cantidad de agua que cae en los diferentes puntos del istmo. La misma revista contiene un

artículo titulado "Lluvia y Temperatura en Nicaragua," por Mr. A. P. DAVIS.

El 27 de julio del año corriente, Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Director del Departamento de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, publicó un hermoso mapa, con importantes descripciones de las rutas de exploración en Alaska en 1898, y con informes generales acerca de aquel territorio. El 55° Congreso de los Estados Unidos votó $20,000 para exploraciones en Alaska, y varias expediciones de geólogos y topógrafos fueron organizadas. La obra en referencia es el resultado de sus estudios.

El sexto informe anual, correspondiente á 1898, del Departamento de Agricultura, Trabajo é Industria del Estado de Montana, á cuyo frente se halla Mr. J. H. CALDERHEAD, como Comisionado, lleva este título: "El Estado Tesoro. Montana y Sus Magníficos Recursos." Las riquezas principales de este Estado consisten, en primer lugar, en sus minas, siendo las de cobre las más notable, y, además, en el vasto campo que ofrece á la agricultura. El informe llena un tomo de 120 páginas y contiene varios mapas.

En la "National Geographic Magazine," correspondiente al mes de julio, hay un artículo muy notable de Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS, sobre el Canal de Nicaragua. En el mismo periódico aparece un escrito de Mr. A. P. DAVIS relativo á los estudios que se han hecho en la ruta de Panamá, y también se describen los trabajos del Departamento de Estudios Geodésicos y de las costas de los Estados Unidos.

La Sección de Aduana y Negocios Insulares del Ministerio de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha publicado el trabajo siguiente: "Traducción de la Ley de Ferrocarriles de la Isla de Cuba y Reglamentos para Ponerla en Ejecución, 1895."

En el número de la revista "The Open Court," correspondiente al mes de julio, hay un artículo del Profesor FREDERICK STARR intitulado "La Supervivencia del Paganismo entre los Indios Mexicanos."

La "Donohue's Magazine," correspondiente al mes de julio, contiene un artículo ilustrado muy interesante sobre Nicaragua, escrito por E. LYELL EARLE.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. AGOSTO DE 1899. No. 2.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

COMMERCIO COM OS ESTADOS UNIDOS EM 1899.

O Honrado WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Ministro dos Estados Unidos na Republica Argentina, remetteu á Secretaria de Estado dos Estados Unidos, em data de 6 de Maio de 1899, um relatorio sobre o desenvolvimento do commercio dos Estados Unidos com aquelle paiz nos primeiros tres mezes do anno corrente.

Segundo este relatorio houve um augmento nas importações dos Estados Unidos e uma diminuição nas exportações da Republica para os Estados Unidos. Annexo a esse relatorio ha um quadro que dá o augmento ou a diminuição nas importações e exportações da Republica Argentina no periodo mencionado, comparadas com as do mesmo periodo em 1898. Deste se vê que o augmento no commercio de importação é repartido entre os Estados Unidos e a Inglaterra e que o commercio de importação dos demais paizes fica practicamente estacionario. Houve um grande augmento nas exportações para a França, Allemanha e Belgica, emquanto que nas exportações para os Estados Unidos e a Inglaterra houve uma diminuição de $158,311 e $1,940,032, respectivamente. Não obstante a grande diminuição nas exportações para a Grã Bretanha, o Ministro diz que a imprensa argentina cita a diminuição nas compras feitas pelos Estados Unidos como argumento em apoio da conteuda de que a tarifa da lã dos Estados Unidos prejudica a lã da Republica Argentina. A diminuição na exportação para o Chile e a Italia, que são os principaes dos outros paizes mostrando diminuição de exportações, foi de $508,061 e $269,597, respectivamente. O valor total das exportações no primeiro trimestre de 1899 foi de

$47,532,893, contra $43,970,805, no mesmo periodo de 1898, ou um augmento de $3,562,088. O augmento no valor das exportações foi devido ao alto preço da lã. Lã de excellente qualidade foi vendida recentemente em Buenos Ayres por um preço maior do que o que tem reinado durante os ultimos quinze annos. O valor das exportações de cereaes tem diminuido, ainda que a quantidade exportada tem augmentada. Segundo o quadro dado pelo Ministro, foram exportados da Republica Argentina no periodo decorrido entre 1° de Outubro de 1898 e 1° de Maio de 1899, 396,738 fardos de lã, o qual mostra uma diminuição sobre os embarques do anno anterior, de 415,109 fardos. Durante o primeiro periodo mencionado 6,262 fardos de lã foram exportados para os Estados Unidos contra 10,995 fardos no anno anterior. Ainda que houve uma diminuição no numero de fardos de lã exportados, o valor da exportação para o periodo findo em 1° de Maio de 1899 excedeu ao do periodo correspondente do anno anterior em $4,572,430.

O Ministro diz que não seja fora de proposito mencionar, que, de um ligeiro estudo do assumpto é da opinião de que alguns ramos das manufacturas argentinas têm recebido grande impulso e beneficio da Exposição Nacional dos productos argentinos que foi aberta em Buenos Ayres e muita concorrida durante os ultimos tres mezes de 1898. A exposição foi uma revelação, e sem duvida deu muito estimulo aos esforços feitos pelas industrias argentinas no sentido de manter os impostos aduaneiros sobre mercadorias importadas tão altos como for possivel.

O Sr. DANIEL MAYER, Consul dos Estados Unidos em Buenos Ayres, remetteu á Secretaria de Estado dos Estados Unidos, em data de 9 de Maio de 1899, um relatorio sobre o commercio de importação da Republica Argentina, dando o valor total da importação dos differentes paizes durante o primeiro trimestre de 1899, comparado com o do periodo correspondente de 1898. Os valores são dados na moeda de ouro da Argentina, um dollar sendo equivalente a .965 na moeda dos Estados Unidos.

Paiz.	1899.	1898.	Augmento.	Diminuição.
Grã Bretanha	11,383,548	9,596,771	1,786,777	.....
Italia	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	.....
Allemanha	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	.....
Estados Unidos	3,513,086	1,896,327	1,616,759	.....
França	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	.....
Belgica	2,507,327	2,561,985	.....	54,658
Brazil	1,040,970	1,173,924	.....	132,954
Hespanha	645,742	915,567	.....	269,825
Paraguay	292,607	345,705	.....	53,098
Uruguay	129,607	119,892	9,715	.....
Hollanda	27,356	18,445	8,911	.....
Portugal	23,733	21,348	2,385	.....
Chile	19,082	7,341	11,741	.....
Bolivia	7,556	6,457	1,099	.....
As Antilhas	4,275	7,000	.....	2,725
Os demais paizes	14,598	28,207	.....	13,609
Total	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	.....

O Ministro BUCHANAN commenta no que elle considera a phase mais interessante da questão da fabricação, que é o effeito que tem um augmento no valor do papel moeda sobre a importação. "Os fabricantes e

productores aqui estão invariavelmente oppostos a qualquer plano que tem por objecto augmentar o valor do papel moeda do paiz. Elles desejam uma alta taxa de ouro, isto é, uma depreciação no valor do papel mœda. Uma baixa taxa de ouro, isto é, um augmento no valor do papel mœda, eqiuvale a uma reducção nos direitos sobre artigos importados, e, por conseguinte, o commercio do fabricante fica prejudicado, pois, torna-se-lhe mais difficil fazer concurrencia com o artigo importado. * * * Estou certo de que o augmento na importação acima indicado teria sido ainda maior si o Governo não tivesse mantido em vigor durante este anno, o direito provisorio addicional de 10 por cento que foi imposto no mez de Setembro ultimo, como medida de guerra."

O ministro dá uma illustração da operação practica da alta no valor do papel moeda sobre artigos importados, e, ao mesmo tempo, mostra a razão por que os fabricantes argentinos desejam a depreciação do papel moeda. O relatorio é dado por completo no numero dos Relatorios Consulares correspondente a 10 de Julho de 1899.

INSPECÇÃO DO TRIGO E DO MILHO.

Por um decreto de 8 de Maio de 1899 o Governo da Argentina organisou um serviço de inspecção do trigo e do milho nos portos de Buenos Aires, La Plata, Bahia Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas e Villa Constitución. Este serviço foi estabelecido com o fim de verificar si o grão está nas condições necessarias para sua exportação para os mercados estrangeiros.

A inspecção não será obrigatoria e terá lugar sómente no caso dos proprietarios ou consignatarios a pedirem, pagando-se pela inspecção, 10 centavos for 1,000 kilogrammas.

Segundo o preambulo deste decreto, seu objecto é regular as transacções e impedir, tanto quanto possivel, as medidas restrictivas que pudessem embaraçar a exportacão dos grãos para o estrangeiro e finalmente estimular a producção de cereaes de primeira ordem na Argentina. O segundo paragrapho desta clausula introductora declara que essa inspecção, limitada como é presentemente ao trigo e ao milho, tem por fim principal a verificação official de que estes productos são bem seccos, limpos e sãos.

BRAZIL.

A ESCASSEZ DA IPECACUANHA.

Ha dez annos passados, podiase comprar nos Estados Unidos uma quantidade qualquer de ipecacuanha do Rio à $1.25 a libra, mas hoje custa $4.25 a libra, por causa da escassez do producto e é provavel que ainda augmente mais o preço. A producção ten diminuida e dizem que o *stock* de ipecacuanha do mundo está nas mãos de alguns negociantes dos Estados Unidos.

Agora trata-se de substituir a ipecacuanha de Carthagena pela do Brazil. Pelo menos ha dous pontos de differença entre essas duas variedades—o aspecto e o alcaloide, do qual depende a força do producto. O alcaloide da variedade do Brazil é conhecido sob o nome de "emetine" e "cephaeline" o do producto de Carthagena. A acção desses alcaloides como medicamento é muito differente e a importação d'esta ultima variedade é prohibida nos Estados Unidos.

Uma causa da diminuição na producção da ipecacuanha do Rio é o trabalho de cavar as raizes, que é considerado muito fatigante especialmente desde que descobriu-se que a colheita da beracha é mais remuneradora. Com a actual escassez de ipecacuanha é de suppôr que seja mais remuneradora a collecta das raizes d'esta planta.

CIRCULAR EXPEDIDA PELO MINISTRO DA INDUSTRIA.

Tendo o Museu Commercial, de Philadelphia, deliberado fazer na mesma cidade uma exposição international commercial, que deverá realizar-se em Outubro do corrente anno, segundo o plano indicado no folheto incluso, e sendo de toda a conveniencia que a Republica dos Estados Unidos do Brazil ali figure de modo honroso e digno dos seus variados recursos, appello para o vosso prestimoso auxilio, que, para aquelle fim e pelos meios a vosso alcance, faciliteis, quanto possivel, a remessa:

(*a*) de amostras das diversas especies de madeiras, cascas, folhas, fructos, sementes, raizes, resinas, fibras, lãs, sedas, algodões, couros crús e curtidos, pelles, materias côrantes e para cortume, productos alimenticios, oleos mineraes, vegetaes e animaes, plantas e drogas medicinaes e odoriferas, borracha, mineraes, etc.:

(*b*) de mapas, cartas, estatisticas, monographias, relatorios de associações commerciaes, industriaes, de credito, de companhias de estradas de ferro e de navegação, catalogos de obras referentes ao Brazil, preços correntes no mercado e emprego dos diversos productos enviados, e tudo quanto possa dar a conhecer o seu valor commercial e industrial.

Os objectos e productos obtidos, representados estes ultimos por amostras de grandeza sufficiente para quaesquer experiencias physico-chimicas, deverão ser convenientemente acondicionados e transportados alé o primeiro porto de embarque para o exterior, por conta do ministerio a meu cargo, o qual, mediante prévio aviso vosso, providenciará junto ao representante do referido museu, nesta capital, para que os faça conduzir d'ali ao seu destino sem mais onus para a União.

Sendo o fim deste tentam a propaganda das nossas riquezas naturaes nos mercados estrangeiros e principalmente nos dos Estados Unidos da America, é da maior conveniencia que as remessas de productos, ou artigos, sejam accompanhadas de indicações e noticias que, além de suas denominações, consignem a sua procedencia, quantidades que podem ser fornecidas annualmente, preços por que o podem ser nos portos de embarque e quaesquer outros esclarecimentos que facilitem as relações de commercio para acquisição dos mesmos.

Apoiando este commettimento com o valioso e efficaz concurso do vosso reconhecido patriotismo, prestareis mais um assignalado serviço á Republica.

ASSOCIACÕES AGRICOLAS.

D' "A Lavoura" extrahimos o seguinte artigo sobre as associacões agricolas do Brazil:

"Caminha sem cessar a propaganda agricola; surgem de todos os lados novas legiões de lidadores que vêm pugnar pelo progresso da agricultura nacional; agita-se por toda a parte o lábaro sagrado do amor do patrio solo. Todos se congregam em torno da mesma idéa: libertar o paiz da importacão agricola estrangeira pela cultura da terra; dar conforto e renome ao povo brasileiro pela cultura da terra; melhorar as finanças pela cultura da terra.

"Em Curityba, no Estado do Paraná, acha-se funccionando a Sociedade Estado al de Agricultura cuja directoria compõe se dos Srs. Drs. VICTOR FERREIRA DO AMARAL, presidente; desembargador ERMELINO DE LEÃO, vice-presidente; EUCLIDES CESAR PLAISANT e BRAZILINO MOURA, secretarios; GERONRMO LA TORRE, procurador, e FRANCISCO J. P. P. REQUIÃO, thesoureiro.

"No dia 16 de outubro ultimo, na cidade de Castro, nesse mesmo Estado, installou-se a Sociedade Agricola e Pastoril Castrense com a seguinte directoria: Presidente, Dr. JAVERT MADUREIRA; vice-presidente, Dr. ANTONIO BLEY; orador, Dr. JERONYMO CABRAL PEREIRA DO AMARAL; primeiro secretario, Dr. ALBERTO GASTON SENGÈS; segundo secretario, FRANCISCO DE ANDRADE; thesoureiro, Pharmaceutico ANNIBAL ESTEVES.

"No Rio Grande do Sul foram fundadas; em S. Borja a Sociedade Sul Rio Grandense Progresso Agricola, que tem por presidente do Conselho Director o Senhor ROMÃO FIORAVANTI TROÏSE, e em Pelotas, séde do Lyceu de Agronomia e Veterinaria, que já publica mensalmente uma "Revista Agricola," foi creada ultimamente uma Sociedade Agricola e Pastoril, de cuja directoria fazem parte distinctos professores do referido lyceu e outras pessoas gradas do logar. Esta sociedade vai realisar em abril proximo uma exposição agricola na cidade de Pelotas. Em Pernambuco, na capital, reorganisou-se a Sociedade Auxiliadora da Agricultura, e, em Curuçá, no Pará, fundou-se outra identica associação, tendo por directores os Senhores MANOEL JERONYMO GUIMARÃES, JOÃO GUALBERTO DE CAMPOS, AUGUSTO RAMOS PINHEIRO, MANOEL DE SIQUEIRA LOBO e BRUNO J. ALVES. Em Anchieta, Estado do Espirito-Santo, mais uma associação agricola acaba de ser fundada."

FUNDOS PUBLICOS.

Extrahimos d' "A Noticia" de 25 de Maio o seguinte editorial sobre os fundos publicos do Brazil:

"Merece consignação especial, além das simples cifras telegraphicas e de movimento de praça, a alta enorme que têm tido os fundos publicos brazileiros nestes ultimos tempos.

"O ultimo telegramma dos Senhores Rothschilds ao Banco da Republica dá a cotação de 67 para os titulos de 1879, 1888 e 1889, de 75 para os titulos de 1895, de 91 para o *funding* e de 72 para a Oeste de Minas. Como a alta tem sido progressiva, não impressiona, comparada com as recentes cotações; mas a impressão é assombrosa se o parallelo é estabelecido, tormando-se para termo época um pouco mais afastada, embora não muito remota.

"Veja-se, por exemplo, a cotação em fins do anno passado. O telegramma dos mesmos banqueiros, expedido a 29 de Dezembro, portanto ha cinco mezes apenas, dava as cotações que abaixo publicamos ao lado das cotações de hontem, accrescida na terceira columna a alta que tem havido nos titulos:

Titulos.	29 de Dezembro.	22 de Maio.	Alta.
	Por cento.	*Por cento.*	*Por cento.*
1879	55	67	12
1888	55	67	12
1889	53½	67	13½
1895	62	75	13
Funding	86	91	5
Oeste de Minas	58	72	14

"Vê-se por esses numeros a colossal alta que em tão curto periodo se tem operado. E ainda mais significativo se torna o facto, se se reduzir a percentagem a cifras dinheiro. Note se que a differença de cambio não influe no facto; as taxas de 29 de Dezembro variaram entre 7⅝ e 7 ²⁄₃₂, mais ou menos as mesmas de 22 do corrente. Para facilitar o calculo tomaremos a taxa de 8, para dar á libra o valor de 30$; e nesta base verá o leitor quanto ganhou o portador de cada £100 em titulos do Brazil, no curto periodo que medeia entre aquellas duas datas:

Titulo.	Alta em libras.	Alta em reis.
1879	12	360$000
1888	12	360$000
1889	13½	405$000
1895	13	390$000
Funding	5	150$000
Oeste de Minas	14	420$000

"O apreço assignalado em globo mostra em quanto este movimento de restauração do credito publico tem sido proveitoso aos portadores dos nossos titulos. A seguinte tabela dá os totaes aproximados dos titulos em circulação, em libras, e os seus valores nas duas datas:

Titulos.	Circulação.	29 de Dezembro.	22 de Maio.	Para mais.
1879	£2, 790, 000	£1, 531, 500	£1, 860, 300	£331, 800
1888	5, 393, 100	2, 966, 205	3, 613, 377	647, 172
1889	18, 533, 300	9, 915, 315	12, 417, 311	2, 501, 996
1895	7, 338, 000	4, 550, 118	5, 504, 173	954, 057
Funding	1, 500, 000	1, 390, 000	1, 365, 000	75, 000
Oeste de Minas	3, 500, 000	2, 000, 000	2, 520, 000	490, 000
Total da differença para mais				5, 000, 025

"Isto quer dizer que á fortuna englobada dos portadores destes titulos accresceu no espaço de cinco mezes em cinco milhões de libras esterlinas, ou ao cambio de 8, em cento e cincoenta mil contos de reis.

"Quanto aos titulos davida interna, as cotações eram em Dezembro: Apolices de 5 por cento 830$; emprestimo de 1895, 870$, e emprestimo de 1897, 940$. As cotações actuaes são para as apolices de 5 por cento, 904$; para emprestimo de 1895, 892$; para o emprestimo de 1897, 996$000.

"Não podem ser mais eloquentes, como thermometro de franco renascimento de confiança, os algarismos que ahi ficam."

PERU.

A VANTAGEM DAS ESTRADAS DE FERRO NA EXPLORAÇÃO DE MINAS.

Segundo um artigo publicado no "Courrier du Pérou" de 8 de Junho de 1899, ó Ministro das Relações Interiores do Peru dirigiu á Companhia Nacional de Minas, uma communicação, perguntando-lhe si não seria mais vantajoso para a companhia estabelecer fornos de fundição do que construir a projectada estrada de ferro desde Oroya até Cerro de Pasco, ao que a companhia replicou em parte:

"Como os cinco fornos de fundição que agora existem no paiz pertencem a companhias particulares e por isso não podem ser usados senão por limitado numero de minas, a maior parte dos que se occupam na exploração de minas, limitam as suas operações á exportação do minerio, e devido ás difficuldades do transporte e especialmente por serem muito altos os preços exigidos, podem sómente negociar em minerios de primeira qualidade. Por isso, a producção mensal de minerio para a exportação—cuja qualidade varia entre 20 e 40 por cento—é calculada em 1,500 toneladas metricas. Quanto aos minerios que se usam nos fornos de fundição—cuja qualidade varia entre 18 e 30 por cento—a producção média mensal é de cerca de 700 toneladas."

A Companhia tambem accrescenteu:

"Podemos dar-lhes garantia positiva de que a quantidade de minerio de 20 por cento para cima que está á vista nas minas em exploração, é fabulosa. É por isso, obvio, si fosse estabelecido grande numero de fornos, assim como uma estrada de ferro de Cerro de Pasco até Oroya e Casapalen, haveria uma producção mensal de 4,000 a 5,000 toneladas metricas.

"Esta Companhia acredita que o que se necessita para assegurar a prosperidade do valle mineral do Cerro de Pasco é a construcção da projectada estrada de ferro."

Quanto á producção do carvão, os administradores da Companhia dizem que até agora as minas não teem sido bem examinadas, e, por conseguinte, seria conveniente que o Governo nomeasse uma commissão

para examinal-as cuidadosamente. "Segundo o que pensam os geologos proeminentes, ha uma abundancia de carvão de boa qualidade."

Este relatorio da Companhia Nacional de Mineração apresentado em resposta ao pedido do Governo, era datado de 23 de Abril de 1899, e no dia 5 de Maio o Governo chamou propostas para a construcção da estrada de ferro, cujas condições foram publicadas minuciosamente no BOLETIM correspondente ao mez de Junho, na pagina 2174.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMMERCIO COM OS PAIZES LATINO-AMERICANOS.

RELAÇÃO MENSAL DAS IMPORTAÇÕES E EXPORTAÇÕES.

O quadro dado na pagina 175 é extrahido da relação compilada por O. P. AUSTIN, chefe da Repartição de Estatistica do Ministerio da Fazenda, mostrando o commercio entre os Estados Unidos e os paizes latino-americanos. A relação corresponde ao mez de Junho da 1899, e é corrigida até o dia 27 de Julho de 1899, com uma relação comparativa para o periodo correspondente do anno anterior, assim como para os 12 mezes findos em Junho de 1899, comparados com os correspondentes de 1898. Deve-se explicar que os algarismos das varias alfandegas, mostrando as importações e exportações de um só mez, são recibidos no Ministerio da Fazenda até quasi o dia 20 do mez seguinte, e perde-se algum tempo necessariamente em sua compilação e impressão. Por conseguinte, as estatisticas para o mez de Junho, por exemplo, não são publicadas até os primeiros dias de Julho.

AUGMENTO DA MARINHA MERCANTE.

O anno fiscal findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, tem visto grande andamento em construcções navaes. A frota dos navios mercantes dos Estados Unidos foi augmentada durante este anno por um numero de navios maior do que o de qualquer outro anno deste quarto do seculo, com excepção do de 1891. Segundo os relatorios officiaes, foram construidas durante o anno 1,429 embarcações, arqueando 320,876 toneladas, e, além destas, foram construidas no estrangeiro e registradas nos Estados Unidos 22 embarcações de 30,181 toneladas. Quasi todas estas novas embarcações são destinadas ao commercio de cabotagem, mas crê-se que no anno de 1899–1900 muitos navios serão construidos para o commercio exterior.

Esta é a primeira vez na historia do paiz que a tonelagem total embarcações a vapor excede a tonelagem total de todas as outras classes de embarcações registradas. Durante o anno foram construidos 460 navios a vela, de 96,458 toneladas, comparados com 426, de 42,502

toneladas para o anno anterior. O numero de vapores construidos durante o anno foi de 478, cum uma tonelagem de 167,851 toneladas, contra 448, com uma tonelagem de 110,128 toneladas, para o anno anterior.

Ainda que as construcções de navios de vapor excedem ás de navios de vela, está-se construindo nos Estados Unidos grande numero destes. De facto, tem se construido maior numero de navios de vela de grande deslocamento do que no anno anterior. Não obstante que o systema de vapor tem substituido o de vélas para muitos dos ramos do commercio, ainda se empregam os navios de véla em grande escala, porque são mais baratos e podem fazer grandes viagens sem tocar em porto para supprir-se de carvão. Empregam-se grande numero de navios de véla no commercio costeiro para as mercadorias pesadas que não pagam altos preços de frete. Tambem se empregam extensivamente esses navios para fazer extensas viagens, como, por exemplo, para a China e a India e para o commercio do Pacifico.

Devido ao augmento da marinha mercante os estaleiros dos Estados Unidos têm contractos para construcções navaes sufficientes para mantel-os empregados durante o anno proximo vindoura. O accrescimo de um numero de grandes navios á marinha mercante do paiz é de grande importancia, pois augmenta a força naval em tempo de guerra, podendo ser utilisados os navios de grande velocidade como cruzadores auxiliares, transportes e carvoeiros. A vantagem de ter grande numero de taes navios foi demonstrada durante a guerra Hispano-Americana do anno passado a tambem foi provado que se necessita uma grande frota para transportar um numero ainda moderado de tropas.

PRODUCÇÃO DO CHÁ.

Durante a primeira semana do mez de Julho, os funccionarios da Secretaria da Agricultura em Washington receberam informação de que chá produzido nos Estados Unidos foi posto á venda em Nova York pela primeira vez na historia do paiz. Este chá foi cultivado na plantação do Dr. CHARLES U. SHEPARD, em Pinehurst, Carolina do Sul, á distancia de 20 milhas de Charleston, aonde tem-se experimentado cultivar o chá durante os ultimos vinte annos. Esta plantação de chá foi estabelecida pela Secretaria da Agricultura e desde então tem sido subsidiada por differentes modos pelo Governo. Nos ultimos annos o Dr. SHEPARD tem conseguido produzir uma pequena colheita que foi toda vendida na propria plantação, aos freguezes regulares. A ultima colheita, porém, era demasiado grande para as exigencias do mercado local e uma quantidade foi enviada para Nova York, onde foi vendida em grosso e depois foi posta á venda a retalho. Este chá é apresentado no mercado como chá Americano e vende-se por um maior preço do que o que se paga pelas variedades mais raras do chá da China e do Japão.

Si bem que os cultivadores de chá do Japão e da China tenham em

seu favor as vantagens do China e da experiencia, tambem o Dr. SHEPARD pode aproveitar-se de algumas condições encontradas sómente nos Estados Unidos que o põem em condição quasi igual á dos seus concorrentes estrangeiros. Os cultivadores japonezes e chinezes teem de empregar os methodos mais custosos de empacotar seu producto para a exportação embrulhando o em folha d'estanho grossa e em varias camadas de esteira e outros envolucros afim de conservar o sabor natural e as outras qualidades da planta. É bem sabido que uma viagem por mar prejudica muito o chá, privando-o em grande parte do seu sabor natural e perfume, além de prejudicial-o em outros respeitos. O chá cultivado pelo Dr. SHEPARD não tem que luctar com nenhuma destas desvantagens e não é prejudicado de maneira alguma.

Ha alguns annos passados, a Secretaria da Agricultura distribuiu uma quantidade de plantas de chá nos differentes Estados do sul com o fim de fomentar o seu cultivo. Com a excepção unica do Dr. SHEPARD, não houve ninguem que se dedicasse com seriedade a este cultivo. Este senhor começou o cultivo em pequena escala e com o subsidio mencionado tem conseguido estabelecer uma industria que lhe dá boa renda. Entre os problemas encontrados existia o de cultivar o chá n'um districto em que a maxima queda d'agua por anno fosse só de 56 pollegadas, ao passo que os cultivadores da Asia pretendem que a planta necessita de 80 a 100 pollegadas de queda d'agua por anno e que quanto mais abundante for a chuva no principio do anno, tanto melhor será para a planta. Alguns dos districtos da Asia mais productores do chá tem 120 pollegadas de queda de chuva por anno. Além disto, o Dr. SHEPARD teve conhecimento de que os entendidos concordaram em que a temperatura nunca deve ser menos de 40°. Em Pinehurst, a temperatura baixa a 15° no inverno. Afim de aproveitar o maximo das chuvas e distribuil-as uniformemente, o terreno foi regado, bem lavrado e pulverizado a uma profundidade de 18 pollegadas; um systema geral de cultivo superficial resultou em augmentar a humidade do solo. Assim o Dr. SHEPARD obteve uma humidade igual a 10 on 15 pollegadas de chuva.

O trabalho era uma questão seria, pois verificou-se que para colher uma libra de chá na Carolina do Sul, o custo era oito vezes maior que na Asia. Achou-se impossivel manter empregado constantemente um pessoal sufficiente para recolher as folhas á medida que fossem amadurecendo. Por conseguinte o Dr. SHEPARD adoptou o plano de uma especie de kindergarten, fazendo que um grande numero de crianças de côr frequentasse gratuitamente a sua escola. Ensinou-lhes a ler e escrever, e em troca as crianças tinham de colher o chá, recebendo além do ensino, dinheiro bastante para as despezas de comida e vestuario. Algumas destas crianças teem-se tornado muito entendidas na industria, si bem que não ignalem os peritos da China e do Japão.

O Senhor WILLIAM SAUNDERS, um horticultor da Secretaria da Agricultura, fez recentemente uma visita a essa plantação de chá e ao sub-

metter o seu relatorio, disse o seguinte com relação ás possibilidades da industria do chá nos Estados Unidos:

"Ninguem deve emprehender a cultura do chá com esperança de exito, sem ter experiencia na applicação practica dos principios que governam os detalhes da industria. É uma industria especial e exige estudos especiaes que podem ser feitos do melhor modo na propria plantação onde estão-se levando a cabo todas as operações. Quem quer entregar-se á cultura do chá deve fazer aprendizagem e familiarizar-se com todas as operacões desde o semear da semente até o empacotamento da folha preparada. Além disto ha a questão sempre pendente do trabalho. É obvio que a industria sómente poderá tornar-se lucrativa, produzindo-se um artigo de qualidade muito superior e para conseguir isto exige-se muito mais cuidado na colheita das folhas do que na preparação de um artigo de qualidade inferior, empregando-se folhas mais duras e velhas."

PRODUCÇÃO DO CHUMBO.

As estatisticas revistas da producção de chumbo nos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1898, preparadas pelo Engineering and Mining Journal de Nova York, mostram que a producção total para o anno foi de 238,000 toneladas, ou um augmento de umas 29,000 toneladas sobre a producção do anno de 1897. O Estado de Colorado contribuiu com a maior parte do augmento, sendo sua producção total de 56,700 toneladas, ou um augmento de 16,000 toneladas sobre a do anno anterior. Idaho occupa o segundo lugar com a producção total de 56,300 toneladas, ou uma diminuição de 1,400 toneladas compaãrada com a do anno anterior. O Estado de Utah, por outro lado, cuja producção total foi de 45,000 toneladas, mostra um augmento de 6,400 toneladas, ao passo que na producção do sueste de Missouri que foi de 35,000 toneladas, houve um augmento de só 1,500 toneladas. Tambem se notou que o chumbo produzido de mineral nacional augmentou consideravelmente, emquanto que o chumbo fundido de mineral estrangeiro, que foi de 89,000 toneladas, mostrou uma diminuição de 2,900 toneladas.

A INDUSTRIA DOS FIGOS NA CALIFORNIA.

A Secretaria da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos tem publicado um boletim que trata do provavel exito dos esforços feitos pela Secretaria para estabelecer a industria do figo de Smyrna na California. Para que o figo de Smyrna dê fructo, é necessario introduzir da Europa do Sul e estabelecer na California um pequeno insecto que fertiliza o figo. Em 1898, foram introduzidos alguns insectos, os quaes têm conseguido penetrar as flores dos figos de Capri em Fresno, assim tendo exito ó primeiro passo do ensaio. O Boletim accrescenta: "Como o insecto tem-se mantido por um anno, ha de crêr que continuará a criar-se, e que a

California poderá no proximo futuro dar ao mercado um figo de sabor superior igual ao do figo de Smyrna, que o tem feito tanto apreciado no mercado."

NOTA BIBLIOGRAPHICA.

Com o titulo "A Bahia e a administração do conselheiro Dr. Luiz Vianna" vai ser publicada uma obra interessante.

É um vasto repositorio de tudo quanto possa interessar saber-se acerca da vida material do progressista Estado da Bahia, e do muito que pelo seu desenvolvimento economico, industrial, commercial e agricola tem feito o illustre estadista que se acha á frente do seu governo.

Dsta obra será publicada em portuguez e francez e dentro em breves dias communica-nos o seu organizador, Senhor JOÃO DE PINO MACHADO, será exposta á venda nas principaes livrarias da nossa capital.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. AOÛT, 1899. No. 2.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

DEMANDE DE MACHINES AGRICOLES.

Le Consul français à Cordoba a informé récemment son Gouvernement que la République Argentine avait besoin de machines agricoles. Il dit que cette République est devenue un marché important pour les machines agricoles de toutes sortes, étant donné le rapide développement de la culture des céréales et luzerne (alfalfa) dans ce pays. Il ajoute que les machines qui existent actuellement doivent être remplacées avant peu par de nouvelles, à cause du manque d'expérience de ceux qui en ont le maniement; les batteuses mécaniques sont dans un tel état de délabrement qu'elles sont une source de danger pour ceux qui en font usage et même font courir aux fermiers le risque de perdre leur récolte, faute de machines. En conséquence, les manufacturiers français ne sauront jamais trop apprécier la vraie importance de ce marché dont les besoins augmentent si rapidement. Ce marché est sans contredit presque monopolisé par les Etats-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne, mais si les Français voulaient suivre leur exemple et établir un dépôt à Buénos-Ayres, Rosario, et même à Cordoba, ils pourraient facilement entrer en concurrence avec ces puissances. Il est nécessaire aussi de ne pas oublier que les machines les moins coûteuses peuvent être vendues plus facilement.

Les propriétaires fonciers sont plutôt spéculateurs que vrais fermiers et attachent peu d'importance à la perfection et à la durée des machines qu'ils emploient.

En ce qui concerne la Province de Cordoba, le Consul évalue à 19,909 le nombre des machines de toutes sortes importées et en usage dans

les différentes colonies agricoles pendant l'année 1892, y compris les charrettes et les chariots. Depuis cette époque jusqu'en 1898, ce total a augmenté de 57,497, divisé de la façon suivante: 39,474 charrues, 11,805 chariots, 11,192 herses, 4,375 rouleaux ou brise-mottes, 2,725 charrettes, 1,692 semoirs, 852 machines à couper la corne du maïs (*corncob cutters*), 686 faucheurs et lieurs, 320 batteuses à vapeur et 285 égrenoirs. Ces chiffres ne comprennent pas 180 batteuses à vapeur, qui parcourent le pays aussitôt après la moison et qui sont mises à la disposition des petits fermiers.

Les machines généralement employées dans cette province sont: Charrues des Etats-Unis avec un soc, N^os^. 1½, 2½ et 8½, vendues 4 piastres 50, 5 piastres et 6 piastres 50 (les prix sont tous cotés en or); les égrenoirs "Virginia," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent 28 piastres; les égrenoirs "Clinton" à main se vendent 6 piastres; les faux provenant de France sont évaluées à 6 piastres la douzaine; les pelles des Etats-Unis coûtent 6 piastres 70, et les anglaises 5 piastres la douzaine; les sarcloirs "Colorado" et "Collins," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent respectivement 2 piastres 70 et 14 piastres la douzaine; ceux de France "Pengeot," 3 piastres 50 la douzaine; les moissonneuses anglaises "Albion," Nos. 5 et 7, rapportent 70 et 80 piastres, et celles "Osborn" et "Eureka," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent respectivement 70 et 110 piastres. Les batteuses et les semoirs se vendent très peu à Cordoba, les fermiers du sud de la province les achetant à Buénos-Ayres. La crise qui affecte en ce moment l'industrie du sucre a causé une baisse considérable dans les importations des machines pour moulins à sucre. Un cinquième du commerce est entre les mains des Français, et la plus grande partie du matériel et de l'outillage des moulins à sucre de Tucuman a été fournie par les Français. Les machines sont achetées à cinq mois de crédit ou au comptant à 5 pour cent d'escompte.

Un rapport du Consul Belge à "Entre Rios," au sujet de l'outillage des fermes dans cette partie de la République Argentine, dit que parmi les simples charrues utilisées et qui sillonnent le sol vierge de ce pays, il peut mentionner celle provenant de la fabrique "Collins" comme une des plus appréciées. Les charrues "Howard," "Avery" et "Osborn" sont aussi employées en grande quantité. Les charrues à 2 ou 3 socs sont fournies par "Collins," "Avery," "Sims" et "Jeffries," et "Howard." Les moissonneuses sont de types différents. Parmi les plus populaires sont "McCormick," "Buckeye," "Walter A. Wood," "Deering," "Osborne" (Etats-Unis), "Hornsby" et "Reliance."

Le Consul Belge à Buenos-Ayres, en parlant des charrues dit que la simple charrue, "sulky," a été considérablement employée depuis les dernières années. C'est un instrument puissant avec une force de résistance telle qu'il peut labourer une terre couverte de paille et d'herbes sauvages. Son prix, toutefois, est quelque peu élevé, étant de 60 à 70 piastres en or.

STATISTIQUE DE LA POPULATION DE BUENOS-AYRES.

La municipalité de Buenos-Ayres publie mensuellement une démographie de la population de la commune. Les chiffres pour le mois d'avril 1899 viennent d'être reçus et sont très intéressants. La population de la République Argentine, en ce moment, est évaluée à 774,000 habitants. L'élément étranger paraît augmenter continuellement en nombre aussi bien qu'en influence.

Les naissances pendant le mois d'avril se chiffraient à 2,690 et les décès à 1,109. La mortalité chez les enfants a été très grande, et en incluant les mort-nés, on constatait 419 morts au dessous de 5 ans. Parmi les adultes, 167 décès sont attribués aux épidémies, aux maladies contagieuses et aux affections pulmonaires.

En ce qui concerne les naissances, le "Buenos Ayres Standard" dit qu'en dehors d'un total de 2,690 naissances pas moins de 1,444 sont nés de parents étrangers et 331 de pères argentins et de mères étrangères. Le chiffre des enfants nés de parents argentins s'élève à 318, une petite fraction du tout.

Un autre point très important est que parmi les décès, plus d'une moitié sont Argentins, par conséquent les décès et les naissances réunis tendent à éliminer l'élément indigène et à ce compte un changement surprenant dans la population de la génération future doit certainement se produire.

CONDITIONS DE L'AGRICULTURE—PERSPECTIVES COMMERCIALES.

Le Consul Anglais à Buenos-Ayres, dans son rapport annuel de 1898 (Série annuelle, No. 2219), observe que l'année a été bonne tant au point de vue de l'agriculture de la République qu'à celui du prix payé pour le blé. Il ajoute que la récolte des blés pour l'année 1898–99 a été magnifique, et quoiqu'il soit très difficile de donner d'une manière exacte le montant du chargement à ce moment-là (mars 1899), il est estimé qu'un surplus de 1,500,000 tonnes pourrait être exporté en 1899, après avoir fait la part de la consommation du pays.

Le premier juin 1899, le Comité National d'Agriculture a publié un rapport statistique de la dernière récolte des blés qui montre que vers la fin de mai, la moisson, après le battage du blé, était de 1,834,067 tonnes. Il était aussi établi qu'il fallait tenir compte du blé non battu, ce qui augmenterait facilement la récolte à plus de 2,000,000 de tonnes, et des avis privés indiqueraient que 2,000,000 de tonnes n'étaient pas une juste estimation.

Le rapport publié donne les chiffres suivants:

	Surface en hectares.	Rendement en tonnes.	Evaluation moyenne en kilogs.
Buenos-Ayres	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fé	981,013	763,655	778
Cordoba	366,698	340,711	929
Entre Rios	142,962	117,608	893
Total	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

Par décret du 8 mai 1899, un service pour l'inspection du blé et du maïs a été organisé par le Gouvernment de la République Argentine, dans les ports de Buenos-Ayres, La Plata, Bahia Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas et Villa Constitución. Ce service a été établi en vue de certifier que les grains remplissaient les conditions nécessaires pour la transportation et l'exportation sur les marchés étrangers.

L'inspection ne sera pas obligatoire et n'aura lieu que quand les propriétaires et les consignataires le demanderont et sur le paiement d'une somme de 10 centavos par 1,000 kilogs.

Le préambule du Décret indique que son objet est de régler les négociations et d'empêcher autant que possible les mesures restrictives qui pourraient arrêter l'exportation des grains sur les marchés étrangers et finalement pour encourager la production des grains de première qualité dans l'Argentine.

Il est bien entendu que les inspections en ce moment étant limitées au blé et au maïs, ont pour principal but de certifier officiellement que ces produits sont sains, secs et propres.

Le rapport du Consul anglais, ci-dessus mentionné, commente à ce sujet sur le progrès qui a été fait et qui continue dans l'amélioration de l'élevage des bestiaux dans la République Argentine; il représente que les éleveurs de bétail de la Grande Bretagne feront bien de maintenir très haut la qualité des animaux qu'ils exportent dans ce pays, parceque de magnifiques bêtes sont élevées dans de nombreuses fermes et sont dans certains cas aussi bonnes que celles importées.

Il ajoute que, pendant quelque temps, la République Argentine sera un excellent marché pour les éleveurs de bétail et de moutons, principalement ces derniers, et pour cette raison les producteurs anglais devront apporter tous leurs soins dans le choix des animaux qu'ils exporteront, s'ils veulent maintenir leur renommée sur le marché.

MM. GIBSON FRÈRES, de Buenos-Ayres, dans une circulaire datée du 1er juin, estiment l'exportation de la laine de la "River Plate" pour la dernière saison à 555,000 balles.

Cette compagnie anticipe, avec de justes raisons, que le prix de la bonne laine ne sera sujet, pour la saison prochaine, à aucun changement, vu son excellente qualité, le croissement des races et la diminution de ces espèces de laine dans la République Argentine, depuis la préférence des qualités inférieures et du grand décroissement de ces produits en Australie, dû à la mortalité chez les moutons.

Naturellement les Etats-Unis étant un pays qui produit et exporte les céréales, aucunes n'ont été reçues de la Plata. Mais parmi les produits considérés comme agricoles et qui ont été exportés aux Etats Unis des ports de la République Argentine pendant le premier trimestre de l'anné 1899, on comprend les suivants:

De Buenos-Ayres: Laine, $201,935.91; cuirs séchés, $667,676.46; tasayo, $59,329.05; peau de chèvre, $47,894.03; autre produit animal, $25,205.06; veau, $10,789.03; mouton, $4,247.30; carpincho, $2,100; cerf, $1,245.75; chevreau, $933.66; poil, $20,264.18; os, $17,517.35; autre produit animal, $27,412.98; plumes d'autruche, $2,288.76.

De Rosario: Cuirs séchés, $326,549.89; laine, $108,742.25; peau de chèvre, $199,030.81; autres peaux, $22,744.38; poil, $21,769.55; autre produit animal, $711.53; plumes, $550.53. Total pour les 2 rapports, $1,768,938.46.

RICHESSES MINÉRALES DANS LA PROVINCE DE SAN LUIS—CONVENTION TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE.

Un rapport de Mr. SIMON MANY, conseiller du commerce extérieur de la France à Mercédès, donne les informations suivantes:

"Un minerai trés riche en manganèse a été découvert dernièrement dans la province de San Luis. Un ingénieur belge qui s'est rendu sur les lieux a trouvé qu'il existe dans cette région des carrières d'où l'on peut extraire un beau marbre tacheté de rouge vif. Quelques-uns de ces marbres sont expédiés en France où ils sont, dit-on, trés appréciés. Quelques-unes de ces carrières donnent de trés gros bénéfices, d'autres ne sont pas exploitées, faute de ressources."

Le même fonctionnaire français dit aussi dans le compte-rendu ci dessus qu'une convention télégraphique a été signée (ad referendum) entre la République Argentine et le Brézil. Cette convention comporte l'établissement d'une ligne directe entre Buenos-Ayres et Puerto Alegre et améliorera sensiblement le service télégraphique international et on espère les tarifs.

CONSTRUCTION D'UN MOULIN À PAPIER.

Le "Wood Pulp News," New York, à la date du 29 juin, 1899, dit que les bruits qui courent depuis quelques temps au sujet de la construction d'un moulin à papier près de Buenos-Ayres semblent ne pas être sans fondement. L'endroit choisi est sur la rive droite du "Rio Paraná" et dans le voisinage immédiat de la ligne principale du chemin de fer de Buenos-Ayres à Rio de Janeiro; de cette façon la transportation au moulin et vice versa, par terre et par eau, sera facile. Les travaux projetés doivent être entrepris par une compagnie formée au capital de 180,000 dollars (or). Les machines doivent être des plus modernes et capables de fournir journellement 20 tonnes de papier pour les journaux, papier á écrire, et différentes autres qualités. Les promoteurs espèrent non seulement suppléer aux demandes locales mais encore exporter une grande quantité aux républiques voisines.

BRÉSIL.

COMMERCE AVEC LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE EN 1899.

D'après les statistiques fournies par le Gouvernement Britannique pour le premier semestre de l'année 1899, concernant le commerce entre le Royaume-Uni et le Brésil, les chiffres suivants sont obtenus. Dans le rapport anglais les chiffres sont donnés en livres sterling, mais

sont ici convertis en valeurs courantes des Etats-Unis, 1 livre sterling équivalant à $4.866. Exportations au Brésil: Tissus de coton de toutes sortes, écru, blanchi, imprimé, teint ou de couleur, $2,770,705.25; diminution comparée avec les mêmes mois de 1898, $1,028,253.92. Tissus de chanvre, fil de chanvre, manufactures de toile et tissus de laine, $1,048,073.14; diminution, $258,267.81. Manufactures métalliques, comprenant tous les articles de cuire ouvré, quincaillerie, coutellerie, fer en barres, fer rond ou carré, fer forgé, rails en acier ou en fer, fil de fer et d'acier, cercles de fer, fer en plaques, plaques de métal pour les chaudières et armures, plaques galvanisées, fer-blanc, plaques de fer-blanc, fer et acier combinés, $1,673,597; diminution, $293,541.45. Cuir pour la fabrication des chaussures, $115,854.59; diminution, $59,053.77. Ciment et faïence, $222,308.08; augmentation, $32,402.69. Huile de graines, $16,007.14; diminution, $5,756.48.

Les importations du Brésil pendant cette période furent les suivantes: Sucre non raffiné, $138,632.34; le même article pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1898, $665,985.09; différence, $527,352.75. Café, $363,757.83; en 1898, $511,221.96; diminution, $147,464.13. Coton brut, $17,712.24; en 1898, $402,150.57; diminution, $384,438.33.

COMMERCE AVEC LES ETATS-UNIS.

Mr. FRANK D. HILL, Consul des Etats-Unis à Santos, dans un rapport au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington (Advance Sheets Consular Reports, No. 473), donne un tableau statistique des exportations et des importations entre les Etats-Unis et le Brésil pendant une période de dix ans. D'après cette statistique il paraît que tandis que les exportations du Brésil aux Etats-Unis ont diminué, les importations des Etats-Unis sont restées comparativement stationnaires. En effet, pendant les années 1891 et 1894, les exportations des Etats-Unis excédaient celles de l'année 1898 et surpassaient d'environ $13,000,000 le prix moyen des dix années entières. Mr. HILL explique que la principale raison de cette situation est l'embarras financier résultant de la diminution constante dans le prix du café. Cela a non seulement réduit la valeur des exportations du Brésil, mais a donné aux marchands du pays moins d'argent pour acheter à l'étranger. Il est bon d'observer toutefois que si les Etats-Unis n'ont rien perdu dans leur commerce avec le Brésil, la Grande-Bretagne a éprouvé une perte considérable en comparaison de son commerce de l'année 1893.

Dans le cours de son rapport, Mr. HILL fait observer que, pour augmenter le commerce avec l'Amérique du Sud, il faudrait que le peuple des Etats-Unis employât les mêmes moyens que les Européens: Bâteaux à vapeur sous le contrôle absolu des Américains et maisons d'affaires dirigées par les Américains. Une fois que les Etats-Unis seront dans les mêmes conditions que les Européens, ils pourront être abandonnés à leur propre initiation.

LA COMPAGNIE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE L'AMAZONE.

L'"Electrical World and Engineer," du 22 juillet, rapporte qu'après s'être heurtée à de nombreux obstacles, la Compagnie Télégraphique l'Amazons s'est décidée à abandonner le câble sous-marin dans le fleuve des Amazones, reliant Para à Manaos. Toutefois cette compagnie est en train de construire sur terre une ligne télégraphique qui déservira les mêmes pays. Cette compagnie a émis des obligations pour la somme de $600,000 à 6 pour cent, et on dit que le Gouvernement brésilien lui a garanti une subvention annuelle de $85,625 pendant douze ans.

MACHINES POUR FABRIQUER LA GLACE À PARA.

On lit dans le Journal du Commerce de New York du 21 juillet que MM. G. AMSINCK et Cie. se préparent à embarquer pour Para tout un système complet de machines capables de fabriquer 10 tonnes de glace par jour. Ces machines, une fois montées et mises en mouvement seront les sixièmes déjà en usage dans cette ville, et toutes combinées produiront journellement 40 tonnes. En ce moment une quantité considérable de glace est embarquée de Para sur les différents points du Brésil. La perspective commerciale pour cette industrie dans les autres parts de la République est très encourageante.

EXPLOITATION DES PLANTES TEXTILES.

Le consul de France à Rio de Janeiro a adressé à l'office national du commerce extérieur des remarques fort intéressan es au sujet de l'exploitation au Brésil des plantes textiles et principalement de l'agave américain.

"Les feuilles de cette plante, dit-il, atteignent parfois une dimension de 2 mètres et 25 centimètres de largeur. Elles sont formées d'une série multiple de fibres allongées, fortes et très fines et d'une quantité de pulpe charnue. Quand elles sont vertes, elles pèsent dix fois plus que quand elles sont sèches. Une feuille convenablement préparée, ajoute ce fonctionnaire, produit en fibres les deux tiers de son poids, et il est à remarquer que les feuilles à moitié vertes se préparent plus facilement et produisent des fibres plus pures et plus consistantes. Ces plantes, cultivées dans un terrain propice, peuvent fournir des coupes après une année. La reproduction de l'agave se fait par le système d'assolements et les meilleurs terrains sont les terrains calcaires et poreux. Il est nécessaire, toutefois, pour cultiver ces sortes de plantes d'avoir les capitaux nécessaires et des connaissances générales de chimie agricole très opprofondies."

MARCHÉ POUR LA MIROITERIE.

Le Consul-Général de France à Rio de Janeiro, dans son rapport annuel récemment publié à Paris par le Gouvernement Français, dit

que la vente des miroirs dans tout le Brésil est très importante. D'après les statistiques fournies par ce fonctionnaire, les importations des miroirs et des glaces étamées en 1898 étaient: d'Allemagne, 326,576 kilogrammes; d'Angleterre, 49,667 kilogs; de France, 35,273 kilogs et de Belgique, 26,260 kilogs. Les cadres de qualité supérieure proviennent généralement de France; les plus ordinaires viennent d'Allemagne. La dorure allemande est considérée de beaucoup inférieure à celle française, et c'est pourquoi les miroirs d'Allemagne sont meilleur marché et se vendent plus promptement quoiqu'ils fassent moins d'usage. Les droits de douane pour les cadres et la miroiterie qui ont moins de 15 décimètres carrés sont de 1 franc à 1.30 francs par kilog, suivant la richesse des cadres. Au-dessus de cette dimension le droit est de 50 pour cent "ad valorem." Les droits pour les cadres confectionnés ou la bordure sont de 2 francs par kilogramme.

CHILI.

INSTALLATION DE LA LUMIÈRE ÉLECTRIQUE À PUNTA ARENAS.

Un article récemment publié dans le "Chilian Times" à "Valparaiso, Chili," contient des illustrations et quelques brèves explications au sujet de l'installation de machines pour la production de l'électricité à Punta Arenas. Ces machines ont été installées et mises en mouvement par la "Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Co." pour la "Compañía Luz Eléctrica de Punta Arenas," une société de capitalistes de la localité.

Cette usine est la plus au sud de toutes les compagnies électriques du pays et a été créée tout d'abord dans l'intention d'éclairer les rues et les maisons de la ville.

Un contrat a été passé depuis avec la municipalité à l'effet de fournir 250 lampes électriques d'une force de 32 bougies chacune. A cet effet, des machines supplémentaires ont été commandées, les premières n'étant pas suffisamment fortes pour éclairer complètement les maisons et les rues.

CUBA.

INSTALLATION DE MACHINES ÉLECTRIQUES À MATANZAS.

Une dépêche reçue de Racine, Wisconsin, annonce que MM. MATTHEW SLUSH, A. W. BISHOP et d'autres représentants officiels de la "Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Electric Railway Co.," ont obtenu une option pour six mois d'un terrain évalué à 750,000 dollars où ils se proposent de construire une usine pour la production de l'électricité destinée à l'éclairage, un immense entrepôt et un tramway électrique partant de Matanzas et desservant les localités voisines.

DÉCOUVERTE DU CAOUTHOUC.

Le "India Rubber World" du 1er juillet, dit que Mr. le Commandant J. ORTON KERBY qui est revenu récemment d'un voyage à Cuba, a la ferme conviction qu'il a trouvé dans cette île le véritable caoutchouc de l'Amérique Centrale (*Castilloa Elastica*) poussant à l'état sauvage. Cet officer fait aussi remarquer que les conditions pour la culture du caoutchouc sont plus favorables à Cuba qu'au Mexique ou au Nicaragua.

Mr. le Major KERBY a poursuivi ses investigations dans l'intérieur du pays beaucoup plus loin que ses prédécesseurs, ayant été aidé dans ses recherches par le Gouvernment de Washington qui avait mis à sa disposition les autorités militaires des Etats-Unis dans cette île. Il ajoute qu'il a particulièrement remarqué le "Castilloa Elastica" sur les côtes du sud de ce pays, pendant que de vieux résidants, gens dignes de foi, l'informaient que ces arbres devaient s'y trouver en abondance. En outre, on affirmait que dans les années précédentes, le caoutchouc (*goma*) figurait dans les exportations, allant vraisemblablement sur les marchés espagnols.

NICARAGUA.

PRODUCTION DU CAOUTCHOUC.

Les demandes croissantes du caoutchouc dans le monde et les nombreaux emplois auxquels cet article peut-être adapté aprés avoir été purifié, apportent peu à peu une révolution dans les méthodes de le recueillir et de préparer la matière première. Jusque dans ces dernières années, tous les caoutchoucs reçus dans les ports des Etats-Unis, provenaient d'arbres poussant à l'état sauvage. Ces sortes d'arbres étaient suffisamment abondants pour les Indiens qui en ramassaient les produits seulement quand ils en avaient besoin. Personne alors n'avait pensé à le cultiver, l'approvisionnement suffisant aux demandes. Mais l'épuisement partiel des produits de la forêt démontra qu'il était nécessaire que l'on fit quelquechose pour suppléer aux provisions fournies par les Indiens. Les exportations de Caoutchouc brut du Nicaragua en 1897, d'après les statistiques obtenues par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne, se montaient á cette époque á 159,600 livres, évaluées à 78,856 dollars, soit environ 50 cents par livre: et on disait que la récolte de 1898 était supérieure en quantité et beaucoup plus grande en valeur, mais aucune statistique exacte ne peut être obtenue.

Plusieurs citoyens des Etats-Unis ont habité le Nicaragua pendant ces quelques dernières années dans l'intention de s'occuper de la culture du caoutchouc. Un de ces pionniers, Mr. G. C. COSSIT, revenu récemment aux Etats-Unis, rapporte que la perspective pour une grande

augmentation dans la production du caoutchouc est très belle. D'un rapport de Mr. COSSIT, inséré le 14 juillet dans la "New Orleans Picayune," nous extrayons quelques faits très intéressants:

"Commençant à Bluefields et se dirigeant vers le nord, il y a, dans le pays, une succession de petites rivières intérieures avec une profondeur moyenne de 5 pieds, qui serpentent à travers les îles jusqu'au pied de la colline Cukira. Un de ces cours d'eau suit le pied des montagnes et donne un excellent drainage. La terre drainée par ce courant a été trouvée précisément propre à la plantation du caoutchouc et est, petit à petit, choisie par les explorateurs étrangers. Le défrichement est probablement l'entreprise la plus coûteuse, mais les arbres sauvages qu'on y trouve fournissent presque assez de semence pour toute la plantation.

"Le planteur qui désire acheter des bien-fonds s'adresse à l'agent du cadastre (*jefe público*) et paie 1 dollar chaque "manzana" (environ 2 acres). L'arpentage de la terre est fait par les agents du Gouvernement à un prix modéré. Le prix moyen du défrichement d'une manzana est 15 dollars en or, et environ 100 manzanas dans chaque plantation sont ordinairement défrichées la première année. Quelques planteurs défrichent seulement un terrain suffisant pour planter les jeunes arbres, pendant que d'autres ont défriché toutes les broussailles et semé les graines. Sans aucun renseignement ni aucun moyen pratique pour les guider, le travail des premiers planteurs de caoutchouc a été entièrement un travail d'expérience. Mr. COSSIT a environ 25 manzanas cultivées, les arbres rangés par file et à une distance de 10 pieds. Mr. HENRY WALDRON, du Canada, possède une terre de 100 manzanas plus élevée sur la montagne et plantée d'arbres provenant de cette semence. Ce planteur a obtenu un succès, ne perdant que 10 à 15 pour cent de sa plantation originale. Messrs. JONES et TOWNSEND, associés avec la Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing Company, de New-York, ont une troupe d'hommes engagés à défricher une étendue de 500 manzanas et espèrent planter 1,000,000 d'arbres. Il y a, en outre, un nombre de petites plantations contenant chacune de 800 à 1,800 arbres.

"Une des questions les plus importantes dans l'industrie de la plantation du caoutchouc, et qui n'est pas encore résolue, est l'âge auquel un arbre peut être saigné sans endommager sa production. L'opinion générale est que dix années sont amplement nécessaires pour permettre à un arbre d'atteindre 10 pouces de diamètre et de subir cette opération. Il a été aussi démontré que les arbres plantés en plein soleil poussent plus rapidement que ceux exposés à l'ombre. Aussi les arbres cultivés dans un terrain propice produisent en six années.

"Jusqu'ici les planteurs ont recueilli très peu de caoutchouc des arbres cultivés, mais en ont obtenu de très grandes quantités des arbres sauvages non coupés. Après la première incision chaque arbre rapportera environ une livre sans être endommagé; et au fur et à mesure qu'il avance en âge le fluide devient plus abondant et se monte quelquefois à 3 ou 4 livres. Les planteurs espèrent que les effets de la culture seront d'augmenter le rendement annuel par arbre.

"Le système employé pour préparer la matière brute est très imparfait, mais même dans ces conditions le coutchouc du Nicaragua rapporte un prix plus élevé qu'aucune autre variété, excepté celui provenant de Para, Brésil."

Les planteurs du Nicaragua ont l'intention d'adopter les méthodes employées dans le Para et dans la Bolivie, et dont on trouvera la description publiée dans le BULLETIN MENSUEL de décembre 1897, page 902.

PARAGUAY.

PRODUCTION DU SUCRE.

Mr. WILLIAM HARRISON, Vice-Consul des Etats-Unis à Asuncion, a soumis le 17 mai, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, un rapport relatif à la production de la canne à sucre et à sa fabrication. Il relate que la culture de la canne à sucre au Paraguay se fait sur une plus vaste échelle qu'autrefois. Chaque tige a environ 2 pouces de diamètre et 6 à 8 pieds de hauteur. Une tonne de canne à sucre produira 35 à 40 gallons de jus et chaque gallon donnera net 1 livre et $\frac{1}{8}$ de sucre. La canne est d'une bonne espèce et fait de l'excellent sucre et rhum. Il n'y a qu'un seul moulin de ce genre dans la République, et comme il lui est impossible de suffire aux demandes, l'importation du sucre est très grande, la plus forte quantité provenant de France. Le sucre fabriqué dans le pays se vend très cher, et avec des moulins semblables à ceux des Etats-Unis et des ouvriers habiles on pourrait facilement perfectionner la qualité. La main-d'œuvre est très bon marché, étant donnée la difficulté que l'on a à se procurer de bons et habiles ouvriers.

Mr. HARRISON donne une évaluation de ce que coûte une plantation de cannes à sucre. Pour la première année, le capital requis est évalué à $20,240; pour la seconde à $96,960 et pour la troisième à $20,800; soit un total de $138,000. Dans cette somme sont comprises toutes les dépenses, 3 lieues de terre labourable, une voie ferrée de 8 milles, 2 locomobiles, 50 vagonnets, une chaloupe à vapeur, un quai, des barges, construction des bâtiments, machines, chevaux et autres animaux, chariots, dépenses des bureaux, fret, assurances, etc. * * * Il estime que la plantation produira 40,000 arrobas (100,000 livres) de sucre à $1.10 = 40,000 dollars; et 6,000 dames-jeannes à $3 = 18,000 dollars; soit un total de $62,000. De ces chiffres il faut que l'on déduise $22,800 de mains-d'œuvre (qu'il détaille) et $27,544 pour les intérêts, ce qui donne un profit net de $11,650 à la fin de la troisième année.

Mr. JOHN RUFFIN, Consul des Etats-Unis à Asuncion, ajoute au rapport de Mr. HARRISON, les renseignements suivants:

"Le moulin à sucre, décrit plus haut, a été subventionné par le Gouvernement par l'intermédiaire de la Banque agricole pour une somme de

$260,000 en billets be banque. It est situé sur la rivière Tebicuary et le 'Paraguayan Central Railway;' de cette façon le transport est facile. Il est éclairé à l'électricité et la compagnie y a dépensé un capital de 1,306,500 dollars. Un rapport fourni par cette fabrique de sucre affirme qu'une valeur de 100,000 dollars (or) de sucre est importée chaque année dans le pays. La compagnie a besoin d'argent pour conduire ses affaires, son capital paraissant avoir été dépensé pour la construction et les frais d'installation de l'usine. Une entreprise de ce genre serait profitable au Paraguay parce qu'elle n'aurait presque pas de concurrence, et dans le cas où l'approvisionnement dépasserait les demandes, le jus pourrait être employé à faire du caña (eau de vie) qui est la boisson en vogue dans le pays."

PÉROU.

L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE.

L'exploitation des mines paraît constituer pour le Pérou une réserve inépuisable pour l'activité industrielle des hommes d'entreprise et offrir un emploi séduisant aux capitaux nationaux et étrangers. D'après "le Nouveau Monde," les gisements métallifères sont signalés de tous les côtés; les mines d'or, d'argent, de charbon, auxquelles viennent s'ajouter les sources de pétrole, constituent un ensemble d'intérêts importants. Du recensement général publié, il résulte que le nombre des mines en exploitation et déclarées, suivant les lois du pays, s'élève à 2,314, mais ce nombre est loin de renfermer la totalité des mines existant au Pérou, puisque chaque jour on en découvre de nouvelles.

SAINT DOMINGUE (RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE).

ASSASSINAT DU PRÉSIDENT HEUREAUX.

Le 26 juillet 1899, le Général Ulysses Hereaux, Président de la République Dominicaine, Saint Domingue, a été assassiné à Moca, ville située à 40 milles environ au sud de Puerto Plata. Le Président était sur le point de partir pour Santiago et se trouvait assis sous la véranda d'une maison de la rue Colon, causant avec des amis, quand il fut tué. Un boulet l'atteignit mortellement au cœur, le tuant instantanément, l'autre frappa à mort un vieillard assis à ses côtés. Le crime fut commis avec une telle rapidité que les personnes présentes n'eurent pas le temps de s'interposer pour l'empêcher. Le Général Venceslao Figuero, Vice-Président de la République, a assumé immédiatement le pouvoir.

Ulysses Hereaux naquit à Puerto Plata sur la côte occidentale de Saint Domingue, en 1846. A 16 ans il s'engagea comme simple soldat,

mais fut bientôt nommé commandant du district de Puerto Plata. Il combattit pendant la guerre avec l'Espagne de 1868 à 1874, fut exilé deux fois pour raisons politiques et rentra pendant deux ans dans la vie privée. En 1878 il fut chargé de réprimer une insurrection espagnole, fut blessé plusieurs fois et faillit être assassiné. En 1882 il succéda comme Président de la République à FERNANDO A. MERINO et fut réélu quatre fois, la dernière en 1898. En 1894, il fit échouer une conspiration qu'un nommé BOBADILLA avait tramé contre lui et dont le résultat devait être sa mort.

DROITS PAYABLES EN OR.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington a reçu un rapport de Mr. MAXWELL, Consul-Général des Etats-Unis à Saint Domingue, daté du 24 juin 1899 l'informant que la Chambre des Députés Dominicaine a décrété que les droits d'importation devront être acquittés en or des Etats-Unis ou en monnaie courante de la République; 6 dollars de cette monnaie devront être considérés l'équivalent de 1 dollar en or. L'ancien droit était de 2 dollars pour 1 dollar d'or. Cet arrêté devait avoir son effet le 1er juillet 1899.

ÉTATS-UNIS.

IMPORTATIONS ET EXPORTATIONS PENDANT L'ANNÉE FISCALE TERMINÉE LE 30 JUIN 1899.

Le chef des travaux de statistique au Ministère des Finances à Washington vient de terminer le tableau détaillé des exportations et des importations des Etats-Unis pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899, et un sommaire de ce travail a été mis le 27 juillet à la disposition du public. Les chiffres contenus dans ce document, comparés à ceux de l'année dernière sont du plus grand intérêt. Les importations ont augmenté de plus de $81,000,000, tandis que les exportations ont diminué de $4,000,000. Les importations pour 1898 et 1899 ont été divisées en différentes classes et comme il suit:

IMPORTATIONS.

	1898.	1899.
Provisions de bouche et bétail	$181, 205, 844	$211, 869, 918
Matières premières employées dans la préparation des produits industriels du pays	201, 428, 375	221, 998, 377
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés dans les arts mécaniques et les manufactures	58, 584, 559	60, 712, 518
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation	97, 382, 404	108, 621, 406
Articles de luxe	77, 448, 472	93, 914, 635
Total des importations	616, 049, 654	697, 116, 854
Rapport	616, 049, 654	697, 116, 854
Proportion des articles libres de droit	47. 3	43. 07
Impôts perçus	$149, 819. 594	$206, 507, 812
Marchandises étrangères en magasin	$37, 726, 964	$35, 956, 021

EXPORTATIONS.

	1898.	1899.
Produits agricoles	$853,683,570	$784,999,009
Produits des manufactures	290,697,354	338,667,794
Produits des mines	19,410,707	28,832,547
Produits provenant de la pêcherie	5,435,483	6,025,446
Divers	3,164,628	3,281,134
Total des exportations du pays	1,210,291,913	1,204,123,134
Marchandises étrangères réexportées	21,190,417	23,082,285
Total des exportations	1,231,482,330	1,227,205,419

Le tableau ci-dessous donne les importations et les exportations (en grandes divisions).

	Importations.		Exportations.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europe	$305,933,691	$353,885,064	$973,806,245	$936,781,169
Amérique du Nord	91,376,807	112,133,871	139,627,841	157,931,409
Amérique du Sud	92,091,694	86,576,020	33,821,701	35,660,932
Asie	92,594,593	107,081,421	44,707,791	48,360,161
Océanie	26,859,230	26,997,508	22,003,022	29,874,993
Afrique	7,193,639	10,442,970	17,515,730	18,594,424

Les importations et les exportations en ce qui concerne les pays compris sous le titre "Amérique du Nord" sont comme suit:

	Importations.		Exportations.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Amérique Anglaise	$32,242,601	$31,586,332	$84,889,819	$89,573,609
Bermuda	459,282	494,812	986,915	1,065,388
Antilles Anglaises	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,386,240	8,751,817
Bélize	171,290	198,203	576,111	499,839
Total Anglais	43,505,990	46,429,829	94,839,085	99,890,653
Mexique	19,004,863	22,994,091	21,206,939	25,480,281
Costa Rica	2,732,426	3,581,899	1,520,161	1,241,191
Guatemala	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,201,714	1,102,779
Honduras	784,741	911,849	752,203	831,998
Nicaragua	1,095,865	1,514,630	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haïti	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Saint Domingue	2,382,139	3,125,695	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba	15,232,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Porto Rico	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,946	2,685,848
Antilles Danoises	327,759	599,328	707,622	498,066
Antilles Hollandaises	174,243	246,902	544,463	474,435
Antilles Françaises	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,542,984
Miquelon, Langley	161,030	86,283	205,005	194,624

Le commerce extérieur des Etats-Unis avec les pays de l'Amérique du Sud est comme suit:

	Importations aux Etats-Unis.		Exportations des Etats-Unis.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
République Argentine	$5,915,879	$5,112,561	$6,429,070	$9,563,510
Bolivie			20,675	31,298
Brésil	61,750,369	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chili	3,736,307	2,931,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombie	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador	765,590	1,054,653	855,193	882,621
Guyane Anglaise	3,060,968	3,500,207	1,747,375	1,749,545
Guyane Hollandaise	1,457,135	1,651,009	408,414	443,757
Guyane Française	12,551	37,929	150,041	170,090
Paraguay		160	699	10,751
Pérou	714,247	1,496,978	1,302,695	1,325,650
Uruguay	1,772,480	1,281,109	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,746,261	2,851,634

En 1898, des marchandises montant à la somme de $1,010 ont été exportées aux Isles Falkland, mais en 1899 aucun commerce n'a eu lieu entre ces îles et les Etats-Unis.

PRODUCTION DU THÉ.

Pendant la première semaine de juillet, les fonctionnaires du Ministère de l'Agriculture à Washington furent informés que du thé produit aux Etats-Unis avait été vendu dans la ville de New-York pour la première fois dans les annales du pays. Ce thé provenait d'une plantation dirigée par Mr le Dr CHARLES U. SHEPARD et qui est située à Pinehurst, à 20 milles de Charleston, Caroline du Sud, où la culture de cette plante a été expérimentée pendant les 20 dernières années. Cette ferme fut installée tout d'abord par le ministère de l'agriculture qui n'a pas cessé depuis de lui prêter son concours de différentes manières. Pendant les dernières années, Mr le Dr SHEPARD a réussi à faire pousser une petite récolte qui fut mise, dans la ferme, à la disposition des consommateurs. La dernière récolte cependant étant trop abondante pour être distribuée séparément, fut envoyée à New-York, vendue en gros et placée depuis dans la vente en détail. Il est démontré que le thé Américain rapporte un prix plus élevé que les variétés les plus rares provenant de la Chine ou du Japon.

Quoique le thé qui croît au Japon et en Chine ait l'avantage du climat et de l'expérience, Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD a su profiter de quelques conditions existant seulement aux Etats-Unis qui le mettent sur le même pied que ses compétiteurs étrangers. Les cultivateurs japonais et chinois sont obligés d'avoir recours à des moyens très dispendieux pour emballer et embarquer leurs produits, tels que de mettre le thé dans des feuilles d'étain très épaisses, l'entourer de nattes et autres enveloppes afin de préserver le goût naturel et les autres qualités de la plante. Il est avéré qu'un voyage à travers l'Océan est très dommageable au thé et lui enlève beaucoup de son arôme, de sa douceur, tout en le détériorant de différentes autres manières.

Il y a quelques années, le Ministère de l'Agriculture distribua une quantité d'arbrisseaux dans les différents Etats du Sud dans le but d'encourager la culture du thé. Personne alors, excepté Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD, n'avait songé à entreprendre sérieusement ce travail. Il commença d'abord sur une petite échelle et, avec les moyens mis à sa disposition, parvint à établir une industrie qui lui rapporte maintenant un bon profit. Parmi les problèmes à résoudre était celui de faire pousser le thé dans un district où il ne tombait pendant toute l'année que 56 pouces d'eau, tandis que les autorités asiatiques prétendaient que les arbrisseaux exigeaient 80 à 100 pouces de pluie par an et qu'il était préférable qu'il plût pendant la première partie de l'année que durant la dernière. Quelques-uns des meilleurs districts à thé en Asie ont 120 pouces de pluie dans l'année. Mr. SHEPARD trouva encore que les autorités s'accordaient à dire que la température ne devait jamais être au-dessous de 40° F., tandis qu'à Pinehurst on peut s'attendre à une température de

15° pendant l'hiver. Pour profiter autant que possible de la pluie et la distribuer également, la terre est desséchée, profondément labourée, remuée et pulvérisée à une profondeur de 18 pouces; un système général de culture aidant plus tard à conserver au sol son humidité. Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD obtint de cette manière une humidité équivalente à 10 ou 15 pouces de pluie.

La question du travail fut un sérieux problème, car il était établi que pour cueillir une livre de thé dans la Caroline du Sud, cela coûterait huit fois plus qu'en Asie. On trouva aussi qu'il était nécessaire qu'on employât continuellement une assez grande quantité d'ouvriers pour cueillir les feuilles au fur et à mesure qu'elles mûrissaient. C'est alors que Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD eut l'idée de fonder une école (Kindergarten), invitant les enfants nègres à venir s'y instruire gratis. Il leur fit cueillir le thé et en échange leur enseigna à lire et à écrire, leur donnant, en sus de leur instruction, assez d'argent pour payer leur nourriture et leurs vêtements. Quelques-uns de ces enfants sont devenus suffisamment habiles, quoique aucun d'eux n'ait atteint l'habileté réputée du Japonais et du Chinois.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, un horticulteur du Ministère de l'Agriculture, s'est rendu récemment dans cette ferme et, en soumettant son rapport, fait les remarques suivantes au sujet de la possibilité de l'industrie du thé aux Etats-Unis:

"Nul ne peut entreprendre cette culture avec succès s'il n'a l'expérience requise et s'il n'est pas à même d'appliquer dans tous leurs détails les moyens pratiques qui la gouvernent. C'est un travail spécial qui réclame une étude particulière, laquelle ne peut s'acquérir que sur le terrain où les opérations sont conduites. Il faut d'abord faire son apprentissage et s'initier au métier dans tous ses détails, depuis l'ensemencement de la graine jusqu'à l'emballage de la feuille manufacturée. Reste encore la question de la main d'œuvre. Il est évident que l'industrie ne peut devenir profitable que si l'on prépare un article d'une qualité absolument supérieure, et pour atteindre ce résultat il est nécessaire que la cueillaison des feuilles soit exécutée avec plus de soins que quand on prépare un article inférieur, dans lequel entre des feuilles plus vieilles et moins tendres."

PRODUCTION DU CUIVRE PENDANT LES ANNÉES 1898 ET 1899.

La production du cuivre aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1898 a été la plus grande dont on ait jamais entendu parler. Les chiffres fournis par les producteurs s'élèvent à 239,241 "long tons," ou 535,900,232 livres de cuivre fin, soit 15,415 "long tons" ou 34,529,937 livres, ou 6.8 pour cent de plus que l'année 1897. L'augmentation a été proportionnellement à peu près la même que celle qui existait entre les années 1897 et 1896, mais a été considérablement moindre que celle de 1896 comparée aux années précédentes. Le Mexique et la Colombie Britannique ont exporté aux Etats-Unis, pendant l'année, sous la forme de lingots et pour être

affinés, 38,922,552 livres de cuivre. D'autre part, les exportations de l'année se sont montées à 133,822.68 "long tons" ou 299,765,054 livres, soit environ 55 pour cent de la production totale. La consommation, d'après ces chiffres approximatifs, montre une très légère différence avec celle des années antérieures.

Les différentes statistiques compilées par le "New York Metal Exchange," pendant le 1er semestre 1899, sont les suivantes:

Production du pays, d'après les calculs des producteurs, 124,487 "long tons," ou 278,850,880 livres; importation de l'étranger, net, 13,908 "long tons," ou 3,115,392 livres, soit un approvisionnement total de 138,395 "long tons," ou 309,966,272 livres. Les livraisons pour le premier semestre 1899 (en tonnes de 2,240 livres) ont été comme il suit:

Exportation du pays en Europe, 51,723 livres; exportation du pays dans l'Amérique Anglaise, 220 livres; exportation du pays au Mexique, 50 livres; sulfate de cuivre exporté (7,640 tonnes, à 25 pour cent), 1,910 livres, soit pour les exportations un total de 53,903 livres; les livraisons pour la consommation du pays, 72,000 livres, soit un total général de 125,903 livres. Si l'on compare les chiffres ci-dessus avec ceux du premier semestre de l'année 1898, on trouvera exactement une augmentation de 4,000 tonnes, mais si on les compare avec ceux du deuxième semestre de la même année, on constatera un surplus de 10,702 tonnes. L'exportation du sulfate de cuivre comparée avec celle de l'année 1898 pour la même période, montre une augmentation de 820 tonnes. Les livraisons pour la consommation du pays ont été extrêmement nombreuses pendant le deuxième trimestre de cette année. Pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1899, elles se sont montées à 18,000 tonnes de plus que pendant la même période de l'année 1898 et à 12,000 tonnes de plus que pendant le deuxième semestre de cette année. Le surplus des livraisons était de 12,492 tonnes, la plus grande partie ayant été envoyée dans les nouvelles affineries.

Une des importations les plus extraordinaires de cuivre qui ait jamais eu lieu aux Etats-Unis, est celle de 9,999 sacs ou 250 tonnes de monnaie de cuivre que le vapeur *Cevic*, venant de l'Inde, a apportés dans le port de New York, le 25 juillet 1899, pour être consignés dans la maison "Oxford Copper Co." Ce cuivre, ayant plus de valeur comme lingot que comme monnaie, sera fondu.

On dit que quand le cuivre était coté à 10 cents, il était plus profitable de le monnayer pour le gouvernement Indien, mais étant donné le prix actuel de l'article, les conditions sont maintenant changées. On prétend aussi que la monnaie de cuivre chinoise et probablement celle d'autres pays, peut être importée et fondue avec un bon bénéfice.

RAPPORT STATISTIQUE SUR L'IMMIGRATION.

Depuis l'année 1896, l'immigration aux Etats-Unis pendant la période fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 a été plus grande que celles des années

précédentes, son total surpassant de plus de 80,000 le chiffre atteint en 1898. Mr. TERRENCE V. POWDERLY, chef du service de l'immigration aux Etats-Unis, a compilé les rapports transmis des différents ports de l'Union et a trouvé que 311,715 étrangers avaient mis le pied sur le sol américain. Parmi eux étaient 195,277 immigrants du sexe masculin et 116,458 du sexe féminin. En 1898 le total général s'élevait à 299,299; en 1897 à 230,832; en 1896 à 343,267; en 1895 à 258,536 et en 1894 à 285,631. L'immigration pour les deux derniers mois (mai et juin) a été remarquablement grande, se montant respectivement à 54,154 et 40,033. Si ce chiffre se maintient pendant la présente année fiscale, les nouveaux arrivés se monteront à plus de 500,000.

Pendant les années précédentes le bureau d'immigration enregistrait seulement la nationalité de chaque immigrant, mais l'année dernière il a tenu compte de sa race et de sa nationalité. Jusqu'ici le nombre d'immigrants appartenant à la race sémitique n'était pas connu; ils étaient classés comme Allemands, Russes ou Polonais. Pendant les 12 derniers mois, 37,415 Israélites furent admis aux Etats Unis. Les Italiens de nouveau sont en majorité, le total des arrivés du nord de l'Italie étant de 65,639; celui du sud de l'Italie de 13,091, soit un total de 78,730. Le nombre des Irlandais immigrés était 32,345, dont 18,625 du sexe féminin et 13,700 du sexe masculin, les Irlandaises s'expatriant plus facilement que les hommes. Tous les peuples de la terre à l'exception de la Valachie (principauté de la Roumanie) ont fourni des immigrants, parmi lesquels se trouvent 412 noirs venant d'Afrique et 1,638 chinois dont 11 du sexe féminin.

L'INDUSTRIE DE LA FIGUE DE SMYRNE EN CALIFORNIE.

Le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, dans un rapport publié pendant le mois de juin 1899, traite des efforts qu'il a faits afin d'établir l'industrie de la figue de Smyrne dans l'Etat de la Californie et du succès probable de cette entreprise. Il paraît que la production de la figue dépend de l'introduction et de l'établissement en Californie d'un petit insecte, "Blastophage," que l'on trouve dans le sud de l'Europe et qui fertilise le fruit. Des expériences à ce sujet furent commencées en 1898 et quelques-uns de ces insectes apportés alors, ont réussi à pénétrer les bourgeons des figues poussant à Fresno, faisant un succès de ce premier coup d'essai. Le rapport ajoute: L'insecte s'étant tenu pendant une année entière, il y a raison de supposer qu'il continuera à se multiplier et que la Californie, dans un futur très rapproché, sera capable d'envoyer sur le marché une figue qui possèdera les mêmes qualités supérieures que celles importées de Smyrne et qui ont donné à ces dernières un rang commercial proéminent.

DEMANDES DE BREVETS D'INVENTION EN 1898 ET 1899.

Le rapport annuel de l'Honorable CHARLES H. DUELL, Directeur du Bureau des Brevets aux Etats-Unis, montre que pendant l'année

dernière il a reçu 35,352 demandes de brevets d'invention, 2,292 pour dessins, 91 pour renouvellement de brevets, 1,861 pour enregistrement de marques de fabrique, 612 pour enregistrement d'étiquettes, 112 pour impressions et gravures et 1,610 pour notifications de demande de brevet, soit un total général de 41,930 demandes de toutes sortes. Il y a eu 24,406 droits de patente accordés. Pendant l'année, 16,670 lettres patentes ont expiré, plus de 4,000 ont été refusées faute de paiement des derniers droits, et plus de 8,000 demandes ont été accordées en attendant l'acquittement des droits finals.

PRODUITS DES MINÉRAUX ET DES MÉTAUX EN 1898.

Le "Engineering and Mining Journal," du mois de juillet, contient un sommaire des statistiques des minéraux et des métaux produits aux Etats-Unis en 1898. Les chiffres donnés montrent que la valeur de ces produits pendant l'année mentionnée ci-dessus se montait à $709,816,750, au lieu de $648,804,899 en 1897. Dans cette production sont compris $65,082,430 d'or et $58,763,127 onces d'argent. La production du charbon était 218,106,519 "short tons," soit une augmentation de 173,000 tonnes de plus que les années antérieures. La production de la fonte était de 11,773,934 tonnes, la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été obtenue dans n'importe quel pays, en une année. La production du cuivre dont les statistiques sont données dans le même bulletin mensuel a été la plus grande qui ait jamais été constatée et a atteint plus de la moitié de celle du monde. Les autres articles principaux étaient: 228,475 "short tons" de plomb, 114,104 "short tons" de zinc, 30,493 bouteilles de vif argent, et 51,774,465 barils de pétrole. Les autres espèces de produits inférieurs sont comprises dans les 103 articles différents. Pendant l'année, on a raffiné et préparé dans ce pays, pour le marché, $22,024,960 d'or, 39,784,000 onces d'argent, 36,055,352 livres de cuivre, 89,209 tonnes de plomb, et 7,127,784 livres de nickel sans compter les produits du pays.

CONDITIONS AGRICOLES DE PUERTO-RICO—SON AVENIR COMMERCIAL.

Mr. William Dinwiddie, après avoir consacré une partie de son temps à étudier avec soin les ressources de Puerto-Rico, a écrit un livre très intéressant qui vient d'être publié par la maison Harper Brothers, de New-York, et qui a pour titre: "Porto Rico, its Conditions and Possibilities." Dans cet ouvrage l'auteur, tout en engageant fortement les capitalistes à venir profiter des occasions offertes et à placer leurs capitaux dans cette île, conseille toutefois aux personnes sans capitaux de s'en tenir éloignées, quelque ambitieuses qu'elles puissent être. A ce sujet il ajoute que les personnes qui ont de l'argent trouveront dans l'industrie du sucre, du café, la plantation du tabac et le commerce du laitage un débouché favorable. La culture des fruits et la coupure des bois n'offrent pour le moment aucun avantage. L'île a besoin de facili-

tés de transport, d'appareils électriques pour la lumière et de machines pour la glace. L'élevage des bestiaux a, dans son opinion, un bel avenir, le pays étant dans de bonnes conditions météorologiques, n'ayant ni sécheresse ni "blizzards" et fournissant d'abondants pâturages et une eau courante excellente pendant toute l'année.

Un des obstacles est la cherté de la terre, le prix moyen de l'acre étant d'environ 100 dollars. La culture du café est l'industrie qui occupe le premier rang, une bonne terre pour la plantation du cafier valant de 20 à 500 dollars l'acre. Ce dernier prix est demandé pour les plantations qui ont cinq années d'existence, près du grand chemin militaire et ayant toutes les facilités de transport désirables. On ne croit pas qu'il y ait une section plus favorisée que l'autre en ce qui concerne le sol, les montagnes du district étant toutes également fertiles; mais les moyens de transporter les récoltes sont meilleurs dans quelques sections que dans d'autres.

Mr. DINWIDDIE donne une estimation de la valeur et de la culture d'une plantation de 100 acres et de son revenu probable en se basant sur les 15 cents obtenus pour une livre de café. Ce prix est évidemment exagéré, car le prix moyen de la livre de café de Puerto-Rico importé aux Etats-Unis en 1898 était de 13.39 cents. D'après le calcul de l'auteur, une plantation devrait commencer à rapporter en cinq ans, quand elle devrait produire de 500 à 1,000 livres par acre. La méthode de cultiver le cafier est aussi décrite, ainsi que les procédés employés pour cueillir et curer les grains, comprenant la polissure et la bleuissage. Ce dernier procédé est usé dans le but de donner une teinte bleue au café, si appréciée sur les marchés français. Mr. DINWIDDIE estime la production annuelle à 55,000,000 livres, tandis que l'estimation espagnole pour 1898 n'était que 26,400,000 livres (voir le BULLETIN MENSUEL du mois de mai 1899, page 1949).

Le café de Puerto-Rico est très goûté en France, en Allemagne, en Autriche, et en Espagne. La France n'achète que le café de première qualité, tandis que l'Espagne n'acquiert que les qualités inférieures. Cuba a été un acquéreur de café depuis de nombreuses années.

Au sujet de la culture et de la manufacture du sucre, l'écrivain ajoute: "que ces hommes qui ont lutté pendant 100 ans à la Louisiane pour faire croître la canne à sucre sur un sol artificiel, trouveront certainement à Puerto-Rico, la récompense de leurs vaillants efforts. On emploie dans les petites plantations de sucre les méthodes les plus primitives; le vieux système de rouleaux en bois tournés par des bœufs et la grande marmite dans laquelle on fait bouillir le jus. Dans quelques pays on emploie le système suivi dans l'usine centrale, néanmoins l'industrie toute entière se trouve dans des conditions précaires, faute de machines modernes. On dit aussi que les plantations de sucre à Puerto-Rico produisent le double de celles des Etats-Unis, la terre étant plus fertile et les rejetons de la canne poussant pendant au moins quatre ans."

Quant à la culture du tabac, Mr. DINWIDDIE, croit qu'on peut obtenir des récoltes aussi bonnes que celles de Cuba.

CONDITIONS DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES AU 1er AOÛT 1899.

Le rapport des statisticiens du Ministère de l'Agriculture indique la condition moyenne des principales récoltes au 1er août 1899: Maïs, 89.9; blé de printemps, 83.6; avoine, 90.8; orge, 93.6; seigle du printemps, 89; blé sarrasin, 93.2; pomme de terre, 93; foin (timothy), 86.7.

La condition moyenne de la récolte du maïs était à la date ci-dessus mentionnée, 2.9 points de plus que celle de 1898 à la même date et 3.2 de plus que toutes les moyennes du mois d'août pendant les dix dernières années.

La condition moyenne du blé du printemps était de 12.9 points plus bas que celle constatée au 1er août 1898 et 0.3 de moins que les moyennes pendant dix ans. La moyenne de la récolte de l'avoine accusait 6.6 points de plus que celle du 1er août 1898 et 8.3 points de moins que les moyennes pendant dix ans. La proportion de la récolte de l'avoine des années précédentes qui se trouve encore entre les mains des fermiers est estimée à 6.9 pour cent, qui est à peu près la moyenne normale. La condition de l'orge dépassait de 14.3 points celle de la même période en 1898 et de 8.6 points les moyennes du mois d'août pendant les dix dernières années. La condition moyenne du seigle était 1.5 points au-dessus des moyennes pendant dix ans, mais de 4.7 points au-dessous de la moyenne du mois d'août 1898. Les rapports préliminaires indiquent une augmentation de 0.7 de .01 dans la superficie ensemencée de blé sarrasin sur celle des années antérieures. La condition moyenne était 6 points de plus qu'au 1er août 1898 et 2.2 points de plus que la moyenne pendant dix ans.

Quant aux pommes de terre irlandaises, la moyenne pour le mois dépassait de 9.1 points celle constatée au 1er août 1898, et était de 6.9 points au-dessus des moyennes du mois d'août pendant dix années. Les indications pour les patates accusent une récolte moyenne.

En ce qui concerne le foin, les rapports reçus indiqueraient une réduction de 3.4 pour cent dans la superficie ensemencée. La condition du foin (timothy) était de 12.6 points au-dessous de 1898.

VENEZUELA.

PROVISIONS DE QUINCAILLERIE.

On lit dans le "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" que la ferronerie, la clouterie ou quincaillerie qui se vend à Venezuela provient des Etats-Unis, de l'Angleterre et de l'Allemagne. Les articles de ce genre exportés de France sont en minorité.

EXPORTATIONS DE HAMBOURG AUX PAYS DE L'AMÉRIQUE.

Le Bureau vient de recevoir les statistiques du commerce et de la navigation de Hambourg pour l'année 1898 que M. le Dr. VERSMANN, Maire de cette ville, a eu la gracieuseté de lui envoyer.

Le tableau ci-dessous donne le montant des exportations de la ville de Hambourg aux pays du Nouveau Continent:

	Marks.
Amérique anglaise	14,643,630
Etats-Unis (côte de l'Atlantique)	147,465,640
Etats-Unis (côte du Pacifique)	2,000,940
Mexique (côte de l'Atlantique)	22,194,990
Mexique (côte du Pacifique)	3,508,080
AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE.	
Guatemala	3,524,960
Bélize	54,930
Honduras	692,040
Salvador	1,046,540
Nicaragua	871,390
Costa Rica	2,017,680
Puerto-Rico	2,238,740
Cuba	1,653,490
Barbados	119,860
Haïti	1,045,460
Saint-Domingue	1,542,760
La Jamaïque	458,840
La Trinité	341,830
Bahamas	28,460
Autres Iles	86,640
Saint-Thomas	463,390
Curaçao	373,420
Guyane	216,560
Venezuela	6,577,750
Colombie (Côte de la mer des Antilles)	5,660,240
Colombie (Côte du Pacifique)	1,031,050
Paraguay	223,190
Brésil	68,032,760
République Argentine	36,989,840
Iles Falkland	7,670
Uruguay	8,623,950
Chili	31,734,430
Bolivie	2,926,560
Pérou	8,066,980
Ecuador	4,195,800

BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Le "Bulletin de la Société Neuchâteloise de Géographie" (Tome XI, 1899) contient une revue des plus intéressantes par Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD, qui a pour titre: "Missions françaises du désert argentin."

L'auteur fait un tableau merveilleux de cet immense territoire qui s'étend des rives de l'Atlantique jusqu'à la crête des Andes; elle parle de sa végétation; des cours d'eau qui le traversent; des forêts impénétrables qui bordent les rivières; des nombreux animaux de toutes sortes et des races infortunées et ingrates que les premiers conquérants du Nouveau Monde n'ont su ni soumettre ni civiliser et qui peuplent ces plaines fertiles; des essais infructueux des Jésuites qui, malgré leurs richesses immenses, un pouvoir absolu, ont vu leur œuvre péricliter, et fait un éloge pompeux de ces missionnaires franciscains qui, dénoués de tout, n'ont pas craint de braver tous les périls pour venir planter dans ces régions sauvages le drapeau de la civilisation et se consacrer à la conversion de cette race barbare.

Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD publie aussi dans cette revue un extrait du registre de la correspondance tenue par le Père CONSTANCIO FERRERO, en sa qualité de préfet des missions. Cette correspondance, dont les originaux sont écrits en italien et en espagnol, a été traduite en français; elle donne une idée des travaux inouïs accomplis, du courage et de l'activité de ces hommes hardis et dévoués, qui subirent toutes les fatigues pour atteindre le but qu'il s'étaient assigné. Le caractère, les mœurs et le gouvernement sous lequel vivent les Indiens qui habitent ces contrées sont longuement et intelligemment dépeints.

L'observatoire météorologique des Etats-Unis vient de faire paraître, pour le mois de juin, la carte météorologique des Grands Lacs indiquant les variations atmosphériques qui se sont produites dans ses régions et donnant la hauteur normale d'eau et de neige recueillies pendant l'anée. Cette carte est accompagnée de plusieurs tables et d'un sommaire préparés par Mr. A. J. HENRY. De ces observations météorologiques, il résulte que la hauteur pluviométrique aux Etats-Unis et au Canada n'est pas aussi grande qu'on veut bien le croire, et à ce sujet Mr. A. J. HENRY s'exprime ainsi: A l'exception peut-être du Lac Supérieur, les lacs ne paraissent pas avoir une influence très marquée sur l'atmosphère des régions voisines. L'eau tombe avec plus d'abondance au sud qu'au nord des lacs Supérieur, Erie et Ontario, la différence dans ce cas étant pour le Lac Supérieur 8 pouces environ, tandis qu'au sud des lacs Erie et Ontario, la moyenne est de 3 pouces de plus que sur les rives septentrionales. Sur les rives orientales des lacs Michigan et Huron, la pluie tombe en plus grande quantité que sur les parties occidentales, mais ces phénomènes ne sont pas aussi remarquables que ceux

précités. Le volume d'eau qui tombe annuellement au nord de la presqu'île de Michigan est moindre que celui de la côte, tandis qu'à l'intérieur du même état la pluie est moins fréquente que sur les bords des lacs.

Mr. FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, un ingénieur des mines à Aachen, Allemagne, dans un ouvrage intitulé: "Geschichtliches über die Entwickelung des 800 jährigen Steinkohlenbergbaues an der Worm, 1113–1898," a répondu à une question qui a soulevé de nombreuses discusions dans les journaux commerciaux de l'Europe. Le problème à résoudre était le suivant: Quand les Européens commencèrent-ils pour la première fois à exploiter les mines de charbon? Les anciennes archives écossaises montrent qu'en 1214, à la fin du règne du roi GUILLAUME DIT LE LION, du charbon fut trouvé sur les côtes sud du "Firth of Forth," et aussi que durant le même règne des titres de concession des mines de houille de Cariden furent accordés aux moines de "Holyrood Abbey" d'Edinbourg. D'après les savants Anglais, ces titres ont été les premiers authentiques prouvant l'existence du charbon. Toutefois, les documents allemands découverts par Mr. BUETTGENBACH ne laissent aucun doute sur l'existence de ce combustible et de son exploitation dans le district de "Worms" au moins cent ans auparavant et à une date aussi éloignée que 1113. L'auteur a aussi publié un travail préliminaire dans lequel il traite du même sujet.

Sur les instances de Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Ministre de l'Intérieur, Señor JOSÉ HORTA a écrit une brochure de 20 pages, intitulée: "Production du Caoutchouc à Guatemala" (El Hule en Guatemala). Cet ouvrage qui a été publié dans le courant de l'année par le Gouvernement (Typographie Nationale) favorise la culture du caoutchouc (Castilla Elástica) dans la République. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Consul-Général des Etats-Unis, a transmis au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères une traduction de cette brochure qui a été insérée dans "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports No. 370" par le Bureau du Commerce au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères. À ce sujet Mr. ALBERTO attire l'attention sur un article paru dans le "De Indische Mercuur," Batavia, Java, et qui a pour titre "Recommandation du caoutchouc" (Castilla Elástica) extrait à Guatemala."

Il y a environ cinq ans, Mr. E. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissaire de la Marine des Etats-Unis, compila toutes les lois des Etats-Unis relatives à la navigation de la marine marchande. Cet ouvrage, publié en 1895, renferme des renseignements si précieux concernant les affaires maritimes qu'il est particulièrement utile aux conseils de l'amirauté, qui peuvent y trouver, en quelques minutes, toutes les lois et renseignements dont ils ont besoin; aussi est-il très demandé.

Une nouvelle édition de cet ouvrage vient d'être publiée par le Bu-

reau de la Navigation et comprend toute la législation compilée par Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, jusqu'au 4 mars 1899, époque à laquelle s'est ajourné le dernier Congrès.

Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Directeur du service géologique aux Etats-Unis, a fait paraître à la date du 27 juillet un ouvrage contenant une magnifique carte de l'Alaska en 1898, une importante description des routes et des terrains explorés et des renseignements généraux sur tout ce territoire.

L'assemblée législative des Etats-Unis (55th Congress) ayant mis à la disposition de ce service 20,000 dollars pour travaux géologiques dans l'Alaska, plusieurs géologues et topographes y furent envoyés; la publication dont il est question ci-dessus est un des résultats des travaux de ces savants.

Les directeurs généraux de l'Exposition Pan-Américaine, qui doit avoir lieu dans la ville de Buffalo (Etat de New-York) pendant l'été et l'automne de l'année 1901 ont, dans l'intérêt de l'exposition, publié un journal. Le premier numéro de cette publication, qui est magnifiquement imprimée et superbement illustrée, a paru le 15 juillet. Cette feuille périodique pour le moment ne paraîtra que deux fois par mois, le premier et le quinze, mais plus tard, au fur et à mesure que les travaux de l'exposition avanceront, elle sera publiée plus fréquemment et sur un plus grand format.

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST vient de faire paraître un ouvrage de 98 pages, avec des cartes, intitulé: The Isthmus of Panama. Ce travail est la compilation de quelques articles traitant de la question et écrits pour les journaux techniques par l'auteur et d'autres écrivains. Le livre contient aussi une collection de rapports, lettres, mémoires, etc., rédigés par différents ingénieurs, voyageurs et autres écrivains qui ont étudié personnellement la question du canal. Il y a aussi une revue d'autres routes, telles que San Blas et Darien ainsi que le Canal Téhuantépec.

Le 6me rapport annuel pour l'année 1898, qui vient d'être publié par le Bureau de l'agriculture, du Travail et de l'Industrie de l'Etat de Montana, sous la direction de Mr. J. H. CALDERHEAD, a pour titre: "Trésor de l'Etat; Montana et ses magnifiques ressources." Les principales richesses de cet Etat sont ses grandes ressources minières dont le cuivre est la principale, ainsi que ses magnifiques produits agricoles. Ce rapport forme une brochure de 120 pages et comprend plusieurs cartes.

Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS a fait paraître dans le "National Geographic Magazine," de juillet, une étude des plus intéressantes sur le Canal de Nicaragua. Mr. DAVIS a publié un supplément à ce magasin donnant

un aperçu des travaux d'arpentage du Panama. Dans le même numéro se trouve un compte-rendu des travaux exécutés par le Bureau de Géodésie des Etats-Unis.

Le journal "The Open Court," de juillet, renferme un article, malheureusement trop court, de M. le Professeur FREDERICK STARR au sujet de la survivance du paganisme chez les Indiens du Mexique.

Un correspondant du journel "India Rubber World" envoie de Para, à la date du 1er juin 1899, les informations suivantes:

"En commémoration du 400me anniversaire de la découverte du Brésil, quelques écrivains des plus renommés de la République ont l'intention, l'année prochaine, de publier un ouvrage donnant la description du pays et ses ressources. Le Baron MARJO y traitera la question géographique et Señor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO donnera l'histoire complète de l'industrie du caoutchouc."

Le Magasin encyclopédique (Donahoe's) du mois de juillet contient un article illustré très intéressant sur le Nicaragua, signé E. LYELL EARLE.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. SEPTEMBER, 1899. NO. 3.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

EXPORTS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1899.

The "Review of the River Plate," in its issue of July 15, 1899, gives statistics concerning the principal exports from the Argentine Republic for the first half of 1899 to European, North American, African, and Brazilian ports. From this statement it is evident that agricultural produce has advanced notably, wheat showing an increase of 500,000 tons exported, as compared with the same period in 1898; maize, an increase of 70,000 tons; linseed, 30,000 tons, and flour 11,000 tons, being just double the quantity shipped last year. Quebracho shows an increase of 30,000 tons, equivalent to 50 per cent.

Of the total quantity of wheat exported (1,078,819 tons), Belgium was the principal purchaser, taking 258,190 tons, Great Britain following with 123,347 tons. Nearly half the total quantity, however (469,185 tons), is classed under the general head "orders," leaving its ultimate destination unnoted.

Of the quebracho shipped (97,026 tons), Germany took 39,638 tons, that country also being in the lead in its purchases of salted ox hides, taking 291,415, Belgium following with 214,453, out of a total number of 606,217. The United States furnish the principal markets for dry ox hides, 484,660 hides being destined for the ports of that country, out of a total of 855,764. A general falling off is noted in what is known as "pastoral" produce, including hides, skins, carcasses, etc.

EXPORTS OF WOOL TO GERMANY.

According to official statistics furnished to the Department of State at Washington by Mr. LOUIS STERN, Consular Agent at Bamberg, Ger-

many, the Argentine Republic, since 1897, has taken first rank among the countries interested in supplying the German wool market. The wool imported from the Argentine Republic, including that from Belgium, which is mainly of Argentine origin, amounted to 204,366,420 pounds in 1898, against 169,754,200 in 1897 and 165,345,000 pounds in 1895.

In 1898 Germany imported about 15,653,000 pounds of Australian and Cape wool, and about as much in 1897, against 213,846,200 pounds in 1895. The falling off in the imports of British colonial wool is chiefly due to the decrease in the imports from Australia, which since 1895 have gone down over one-third. A further decrease in the wool from that country is expected, for, according to a report from New South Wales, a prolonged drought has caused the colony a direct loss of hundreds of thousands of sheep, and the whole production of Australian wool has fallen in a single year from 1,500,000 to 250,000 bales.

The present conditions, therefore, offer great opportunities for the Argentine Republic to increase its trade in wool with Germany. Naturally, with increased exports, there will be increased imports from Germany, and the trade between the two countries is expected to be greatly augmented during the present fiscal year.

THE FOSSILS OF PATAGONIA.

The geological expedition sent out several months ago under Prof. J. B. HATCHER, by Princeton University, has returned to the United States with a great collection of specimens. Upon reaching the Straits of Magellan the party selected Sandy Point as its headquarters, and from there set out for the purpose of exploration and the collection of fossils, vertebrates, and invertebrates. As no museum in the North contained a considerable number of Patagonian fossils, no direct comparison could be made between the Southern and Northern forms, so the primary object of Professor HATCHER'S expedition was to make the most extensive collections possible of the fossils of that almost unknown country. In this he was highly successful, and he also devoted considerable attention to gathering ethnological, botanical, and zoological specimens. The first Mesozoic mammals ever discovered were found by this expedition in the interior of Patagonia, and more than 30 cases of Mesozoic vertebrates were shipped to the United States. Professor HATCHER, in the course of his search for specimens, naturally gathered much valuable information regarding the life and customs of the Indians of the country and was successful in securing an important series of photographic negatives, which depict the geological and physiographic features of that far-southern region.

Mr. O. E. PETERSON, Professor HATCHER'S assistant, returned from Patagonia early in September. The two months he remained after the others of the expedition started for home were passed along the seacoast. An additional collection of valuable and rare specimens of bird and fish fossils were thus secured, which will be prepared for Princeton's museum.

THE INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for February last contained a reference to the "Industrial Congress," which was to have been held in Buenos Ayres during the month of May last. This Bureau is in receipt of a printed pamphlet, issued by the officers of the congress in June, 1899, which shows that the program of proceedings, as well as the date for the holding of the congress, have been changed. The date for the opening session is given as October 12, 1899, in the city of Buenos Ayres. Prior to this the committee on organization will hold a meeting to appoint the president of the body, the two vice presidents, and the two secretaries. The congress will then take up for discussion the papers which may have been filed for presentation to it, each of which will be submitted to a vote of the whole body, and the propositions contained therein will be approved or rejected by a plurality of votes. Each section of the congress will designate the industrial establishments or other places in the capital to be visited by the members. Immediately after the last session the committee on organization will collate all the proceedings and resolutions for publication. The deliberations of the congress are to be governed by the rules of the Latin-American Scientific Congress.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES PORTS IN JULY.

Señor Don CARLOS ROHL, Consul-General of the Argentine Republic at New York, kindly furnishes the Bureau of the American Republics with the following trade movement between the United States and the Argentine during the month of July, 1899:

The exports to Buenos Ayres and Rosario from New York were valued at $599,081. The exports from Boston, Portland, Pensacola, Philadelphia, Pascagoula, Mobile, Apalachicola, Baltimore, and Brunswick, principally consisting of spruce and pine lumber and coal, were valued at $239,620. The imports from the Argentine Republic to the ports of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia for the same month were valued at $402,977.

The tonnage between the United States and the Argentine Republic during the same month was as follows: Entering at New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, one steamer and five sailing vessels; tonnage, 4,500 tons. Clearing from New York, Boston, Portland, Pensacola, Philadelphia, Pascagoula, Mobile, Apalachicola, Savannah, Baltimore, and Brunswick, seven steamers and eighteen sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 28,581 tons.

PURCHASES OF AGRICULTURAL AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

The "New York Commercial Bulletin" for September 2, reports that on the first instant an export firm in that city purchased eight carloads of agricultural implements for firms in the Argentine Republic, also that an electrical and engineering firm will soon have ready for shipment $13,000 worth of material for Buenos Ayres.

BOLIVIA.

IMPORTS FROM NEW YORK IN 1899.

Through the courtesy of Señor ENRIQUE WOLFF the Bureau of the American Republics is informed that the exports from the port of New York to Bolivia from January 1 to June 30, 1899, were 5,433 packages, valued at $78,704.41.

ROUTE FOR PROPOSED RAILROAD.

Señor ADOLFO BALLIVIAN is reported to have recently returned from Europe, accompanied by a party of engineers, for the purpose of surveying a proposed new railway route around the falls of the Madeira River. Belgian capitalists are reported to be backing the scheme.

BRAZIL.

THE CITY OF MANAOS.

Commander C. C. TODD, in his official report, dated May 20, 1899, to the Government of the United States, of the cruise of the *Wilmington* up the Amazon River and its tributaries, speaks of the newest city of the Amazon Valley in the following language:

"The city of Manaos lies on the left bank of the Rio Negro, 5 miles from its junction with the river called on the maps Solimoes. It is the seat of government of the State of Amazonas. With a population of from 30,000 to 40,000, it is to-day second in importance only to Para, in northern Brazil, when its exports and imports are considered and the territory tributary to it. It is the distributing point, through the small steamers of the 'Amazonas Line,' for business and people along the rivers Madeira, Purus, Jurua, Japara, Rio Negro, and partially the Javari. Here transshipment of necessary food stuffs is made for the rubber hunter, together with articles of barter. All articles of export must be entered here or at the custom-house at Serpa. These exports from above pass through the custom-house at Manaos from the Madeira at Serpa. The income derived by the States comes mainly from exports; duties on imports are supposed to go to the Federal Government.

"The city of Manaos to-day is lighted by electricity, has an electric railway, waterworks (American enterprises), and possesses a good telephone service. There is an ice plant, and paving the streets with 'Hastings' brick is in progress. Under a wise administration, it would appear as though Manaos has before it a brilliant future should the present trade conditions continue or increase. * * * The water

front is as yet without proper protection or suitable means of handling the large amount of freight received, but it is believed this will shortly be overcome by Federal or State appropriations. Here, as with other Brazilian ports, a naval officer acts as captain of the port, generally with rank of commander, and represents the Federal authority at that place. The city lacks drainage, but it is proposed to soon inaugurate a complete system. The apparent trouble to be surmounted here is a comprehensive system of public improvements. Concessions are given for one improvement to a responsible bidder, another to a second, etc., without due consideration as to possible clashing and ultimate benefit to the city when all proposed improvements are to be completed, hence my use of the word 'comprehensive.' The authorities seem anxious to do what the means at hand will accomplish; but what is most needful, it appears to me, is a civil engineer of experience who can grapple with and put through the needs of a rapidly growing city at a minimum expense by keeping steadily in view future sanitary requirements. The situation of the city is admirable, upon high, rolling ground, capable of splendid drainage. Until the latter is completed the health conditions, which at present are far from satisfactory, can not be improved.

"One great advantage the port of Manaos possesses is the almost entire absence of current in the Rio Negro. This permits the rapid handling of freight, coal, and other marine transportation at a minimum cost. The seagoing steamer lines plying here have mooring buoys at which they lie when in port. * * * I was informed that a few years since the State of Amazonas intended constructing a system of quays along the water front, giving good wharfage for vessels, but the Federal Government claimed the exclusive right to make this improvement and the wishes of the State have not been carried out. The water is reached from the elevation on which the city is located by substantial concrete inclines, affording easy access to the shore boats for transport to vessels lying in the stream.

"The American Government is represented here by a Consular Agent. The rapid growth of the city in recent years, which bids fair to continue in commercial importance, with much American capital invested, would seem to call for a higher grade on consular representative."

DECLINE OF IMPORTS.

In an interview Mr. GARCIA, Vice-Consul for Brazil at the port of New York, presented the official figures of the total imports of that country for the first five months of 1899, which show a material decline for all countries except from the Argentine Republic, which is credited with an increase of about 13 per cent. This increase is attributed to the drought in northern Brazil and the activity of Para. Importations of cereals from the River Plate have fallen off, and considerable flour is being ground in Brazil from wheat imported from the United States.

The imports from the United States show a decrease of 11 per cent

for the five months named, but notwithstanding the fact that it has been claimed that Brazil is not taking as much flour from the United States as formerly, the figures will show that there has been an increase. According to the statement presented by Mr. GARCIA, the imports of flour for the months named amounted to $1,343,812, as against $1,328,890 for the first five months in 1898.

Imports of cotton goods show a decline because the mills of Brazil are increasing their output. There was also a decrease in the sales of provisions, timber, and sundry manufactures by the United States. Articles more largely used than in former years are coal, oils, iron, and steel.

Great Britain's trade with Brazil also declined, but it is not so great a falling off as that of the United States, amounting only to 2.9 per cent. The decline in textiles was principally noticeable in those classes that came in competition with domestic production. The total imports from Great Britain in the period named amounted to £1,750,520. Exports from France decreased 14 per cent, the export business of Germany also showing a falling off.

RAILWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

Among the railways under construction in Brazil there is one from Blumenau to Port Union which will unite the States of Santa Catharina and Parana, passing through Cerro do Mar to Port Union. Another, and a very important railway, is from Rio Grande do Sul, extending as far as the Uruguay River and connecting with other lines at Port Union. This would seem to insure to this city the highly lucrative trade of both States.

Two other concessions have been granted, one to Mr. VAN OEKEL, a German engineer, and the other to Senhor CINE SELLIN, director of the thriving colony of Houssa, which has 500,000 hectares of land in the State of Santa Catharina, principally in the districts of Blumenau and Joinville. Messrs. KOPPEL & Co., bankers of Brazil and Germany, have taken up the first enterprise and the other is being negotiated for by capitalists from the United States. The former is to be 350 miles in length, and it is estimated that the cost will be about $8,000,000. When completed it will open up the almost unknown interior of the State of Santa Catharina and the best part of the State of Parana to the commerce of the world. In both these States the great drawback is the lack of transportation facilities. Another hindrance to the development of the State is the falling off of immigration, which has almost ceased owing to the stringent laws adopted by Sweden and Germany, from whence the immigrants formerly came.

DISCRIMINATING COFFEE DUTIES IN FRANCE.

One of the chief hindrances to the development of trade between France and the Republic of Brazil is the enormous duty collected in France upon coffee other than that grown in the French colonies. This

duty is at the rate of 1.56 francs per kilogram, which, valuing the franc at 19.3 cents United States currency, would make a duty of 30.108 cents on each kilogram (2 pounds 3 ounces).

At present there is an agitation on the part of the Brazilian coffee growers for the reduction of this duty. In this they are joined by the "French Associated Chambers of Commerce," which passed a resolution in favor of reduction. The substance of this resolution is to the effect that, in the opinion of the chambers, the import revenue of the country would not be diminished except temporarily, since the cheapening of the article would be certain to lead to a great increase in the consumption and to a corresponding increase in the consumption of sugar. At the same time the trade with Brazil would be greatly augmented.

FLOUR FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The "Rio News" of July 25, 1899, contains a paragraph with reference to the new arrangements for the exportation of flour from the Argentine Republic to the Rio de Janeiro markets. From this it appears that some 13 mills have formed a syndicate in Buenos Ayres for the purpose of manufacturing a better and more uniform grade of flour, and for putting it upon the market at fixed rates in order to protect themselves from injurious competition. It is further reported that two other combinations and one mill are still working separately, but it is anticipated that one or all of them will join the syndicate.

Messrs. ASHWORTH & Co., of Buenos Ayres, and Messrs. EDWARD ASHWORTH & Co., of Rio de Janeiro, are the agents through whom the market will be supplied. Two grades of flour have been selected, the quality of which will be higher than any heretofore placed on the Brazilian market, and the millers agree to maintain these grades. The bags will be made specially and marked, and every needful arrangement for handling the product quickly will be attended to. It is expected by the promoters that much better prices will be secured by these precautions.

TAX ON LETTERS ROGATORY.

From Petropolis, under date of July 11, 1899, Col. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN sent to the Department of State at Washington a translation of a note from the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs to the effect that civil or commercial letters rogatory which may be received from foreign courts of justice through diplomatic channels can have effect in Brazil only after the interested parties or their attorneys have paid the stamp tax to which they are subject. Stamps for this purpose must be procured at the office of the Secretary of Justice and Interior Affairs when the letters are directed to the courts of the Federal capital, and at the appropriate sectional court where they are then sent in the event that the proceedings asked for are to be carried on in the States.

EXPORTS OF COFFEE.

The "Nouveau Monde" (Paris), under date of August 12, 1899, reports the shipment of 1,323,373 sacks of coffee from Rio de Janeiro during the first six months of the present year. Of this total, 659,538 sacks arrived from Minas Geraes, 568,508 from the State of Rio de Janeiro, 18,291 from São Paulo, and 77,036 from Espirito Santo.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the Secretary of Finance of the State of São Paulo, there are in that State 15,075 coffee plantations, including those which contain from 50,000 to 500,000 trees each. The motive power used in the mills for preparing the coffee for market is in 1,243 cases steam and in 460 cases water.

The exports to Brazil from the Argentine Republic, as compiled by the "Review of the River Plate," during the half year ended June 30, 1899, are as follows: 10 bales of sheepskins; 1,439 pipes, 1,332 casks, and 2,933 hogsheads of tallow; 4,184 tons of wheat, 21,263 tons of maize, 21,133 tons of flour, 214,192 bales of hay, 2,422 cases of butter (25 kilograms each), 237 bags of birdseed, and 3 tons of bran.

It is reported that the Brazilian Government is about to commence a series of operations for putting the upper and lower Paraná into a navigable condition, now interrupted by the Falls of La Guayra. The scheme was proposed four years ago, and surveys were made at that time.

The imports of flour into Brazil during 1898 amounted to 273,137 barrels, of which the United States supplied 212,837, the River Plate countries 44,268; Liverpool, England, 8,630, and Chile 5,000.

During the six months ended June 30, 1899, the Mogyna railway brought to Campinus 101,701 kilograms of mangabeira rubber. This was 45,910 kilograms in excess of the corresponding period of 1898.

CHILE.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN VALDIVIA.

The city of Valdivia, containing from 10,000 to 12,000 people, capital of the Province of the same name, is one of the most prosperous towns of southern Chile. The Province is rich in minerals, including gold, manganese, copper, and some coal, while the forests abound with valuable hard and soft woods. One of the principal industries of the city is the brewery of ANWANTER BROS., which produces more than 8,000,000 liters (2,113,400 gallons) of beer annually. In the manufacture of this beverage the brewery consumes 30,000 metric quintals (118,000

bushels) of barley and 30,000 kilograms (66,138 pounds) of hops. Over 300 workmen are employed. The fuel used is firewood. This same firm operates a tannery which turns out annually from 8,000 to 10,000 tanned hides. Other firms engaged in the tanning industry are: PROCHELLE & Co., SEBASTIAN WORKMASTER, JULIO LOPSTEQUE, TEODORO PAUSENBERGER, RODOLFO BECKDORF, JERMAN EHRENFELD, and Messrs. GEORGE and CHARLES MARTIN. The output of these firms range from 3,000 to 5,000 manufactured hides each annually, Mr. WORKMASTER manufacturing sole leather only. What is known as "lingue" bark, which is found in abundance in Chile, is used in the process of tanning.

During the calendar year 1897, 93 steamers and 8 sailing vessels, all foreign, entered the port of Valdivia, on which products to the value of over $3,000,000 (paper) were exported. In the same year the coasting trade was represented by 598 steamers and 30 sailing vessels, which carried goods to the value of $8,367,983.

It is expected that the completion of the railway from Pitrufguen to Antilhue, now in course of construction, will give renewed vigor to the general commerce of the Province. The United States has no consular representative at Valdivia.

NEW DRY DOCK AT TALCAHUANO.

Until recently no dry dock existed on the Pacific coast of South America and the Republic of Chile had to send to Europe, whenever repairs were needed, all war and other large vessels, at much inconvenience and expense. The smaller vessels could enter the floating dock at Valparaiso and Callao.

In 1878 a French engineer was intrusted with the preparation of plans and estimates for a dry dock and repairing yard in the Bay of Talcahuano, situated about the middle of the long Chilean coast line. The first project intended the work to be constructed with a concrete cofferdam, jutting out into the sea from the shore by means of pneumatic chambers, as had been successfully accomplished near Toulon, in southern France. In 1883 a Dutch engineer, named DIRKS, was consulted, and submitted some improved designs. These were approved by the Government, and the contract for the construction was given for the sum of £546,320. The site chosen was on a reef at a distance of 600 meters (1,968 feet) from shore, with the work joined to the land by a dam. According to the specifications, the dock was to have an average inside length of 616.8 feet, of which 340.25 feet had a bottom width of 75.4 feet, and the remainder a bottom width of 55.7 feet. The depth of the entrance sill, at high water, was to be 30.34 feet, and on the sill of the inner port the depth was to be 27.42 feet. At a distance of 65 feet outward from the sill of the inner compartment an additional pontoon grove was to be provided, so as to give an increased length to this inner dock, if required. The outside walls of the dock,

below low water, were to be made up of concrete in layers over a compressed air caisson suspended from lighters. The outside facing of the bottom steps and coping is of Lyenite and hard sandstone.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The British Vice-Consul at Traiguen reports that farming is carried on in the ordinary native way in Chile, and the improved methods are only very gradually coming into use. Machinery, however, is used to a considerable extent. The greater part of the thrashing machines are manufactured in the United States, but in nearly all cases the engines are of British origin. The reaping machines, such as the "Randolph" header and "Hodges" reaper, are mainly from the United States. Nearly all the farmers have given up using the binders on account of the increased expense of twine, etc. The header and reaper named throw the wheat as it is cut directly into the car or cart which is used for that purpose.

Among the matters recently acted upon by the Chilean Congress was the proposal made by the Punta Arenas colony toward obtaining Government aid for establishing a regular line of steamers between Punta Arenas and San Julian, on the east coast. After consideration the Senate authorized the President to give $8,000 annually to any company undertaking the project. The President was also authorized to contribute $30,000 toward the construction of a mole at the same port.

In May, 1899, the customs receipts of Chile amounted to $5,093,729.34, as compared with $3,883,136.83 in the corresponding month of 1898. The receipts in the first five months of the current year amounted to $25,647,471.44, or $2,149,729.93 in excess of the receipts for the same months in 1898.

The Federal Government has sent out a commission of engineers to examine and report on the new coal fields that have been discovered in the Provinces of Cautin and Malaco. If this commission makes a favorable report, concessions are to be granted to the public.

COLOMBIA.

NEW MINING CORPORATION.

On August 1, 1899, "The Colombia Concessions Company, Limited," was admitted to registry in London, England. The amount of capital stock named was £3,500 in £1 shares. The object of the projectors is "to acquire and work mines in the Republic of Colombia and elsewhere."

COSTA RICA.

CHANGE IN CUSTOMS DISTRICT.

The Constitutional Congress of Costa Rica on July 24, 1899, enacted a law reciting that, as by the provisions of existing law merchandise imported through Puerto Limon destined for the Provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia can only be dispatched at the central custom-house at San Jose, thus entailing upon trade an extra expense for transporting goods to their destination, hereafter merchandise intended for the Provinces named may be dispatched either at the Limon or the central custom-house.

CUBA.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 1899.

On August 27 the War Department of the United States submitted to the public an unusually interesting statement of the financial condition of Cuba. The publication is important because it shows that under an economical and intelligent management the receipts of the island from January 1 to June 30, 1899, exceeded the expenditures by the very handsome sum of $1,480,021.92. This is most encouraging, for the reason that the expenditures were of necessity much greater than would have been found requisite after a new system had been established.

During the period named the receipts from all sources were $6,982,010.20. The disbursements were $5,501,988.28. The latter sum includes the following items: Sanitation, $1,713,014.20; erection and improvement of barracks and quarters, $305,263.06; hospitals and charities, $293,881.37; public works, harbors, and forts, $250,674.12; aid of the destitute, $88,944.03; quarantine, $42,203.90; rural guard and administration, $443,363.10; civil government, $342,146.01; municipal government, $725,281.38. It is gratifying to know, also, that the revenue is not sinking, but rising, as the receipts in July were at the rate of 15 per cent greater than for the previous year. The statement for this month of the customs collections gives a total of $1,201.537; of the internal-revenue collections, $36,357; postal collections, $15,000; miscellaneous collections, $63,433; making a grand total of $1,315,324. The disbursements during this month were $1,029,877.

When the year closes it will probably be found that the gradual revival of industries and exterior trade has established the revenue at a somewhat higher rate than that obtained in July, which, nevertheless,

suffices for the expenses of the government of the island, with a liberal balance each month for those permanent improvements which are still so much needed.

VIGILANCE OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

The constant inflow of Spanish immigrants, which has been increasing steadily during the past two months, is causing the health authorities of the port of Havana to be exceptionally vigilant, owing to the "bubonic plague" in Portugal. Every ship from a Spanish port is most thoroughly inspected.

ECUADOR.

CULTURE, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF CACAO.

Cacao is the principal element in chocolate and various kinds of confections. As an article of food it is very nutritious, healthful, and stimulating. The "butter" of cacao is well known in medicine and is used as a cure for many diseases of the skin. The shells of the seed, roasted and ground, are used for cocoa, a drink well known in most of the countries of the temperate zone. In countries where it is produced, the pulp of the pod is used as a fodder for animals. The popularity of cacao rapidly increases wherever it is introduced, and neither fluctuations in price nor attempts to substitute other products have affected its use in localities where once it is well established.

The active principle of cacao is *theobroma*, a powerful organic reagent. The tree pertains to the botanical family of *Malvacias bictnereaces;* it is the *theobroma cacao* of Linnæus, of which various species are found in Ecuador. It is believed that cacao came originally from Mexico, where it was cultivated long prior to the Spanish conquest. It was there called *cacari* or *cascara quahuitl*, and the product was called *chocolatl*, from which the English word chocolate is derived.

On June 28, 1899, Consul-General PERRY M. DE LEON made a lengthy and comprehensive report to the Department of State at Washington, on the culture and production of cacao in the Republic of Ecuador, the greatest cacao-producing country in the world, from which the foregoing and following facts have been obtained.

The history of the country does not record the date of the introduction of the plant. It is stated that the annual production in 1741 was from 35,000 to 40,000 "cargas" of 81 pounds each. Cacao is produced in the five provinces of the coast, and the number of trees is estimated to be 47,200,000, producing from 358,000 to 365,000 Spanish quintals (101.61 pounds) annually. The tree requires a very warm and humid climate—77° to 86° F.—and copious rains. The soil best adapted for the plantations is one that is deep and moist, the roots of this tree growing vertically downward to a considerable depth; siliceous

clay is especially preferred on account of the phosphoric acid and potash required by the bean. The tree is produced from seeds; four or five are put in each hole, dug in rows, at a distance of about 5 yards apart. The preparation of the land for a plantation consists in clearing out the small trees, underbrush, and weeds, but leaving the large umbrageous trees. The clear space is planted in corn, arrowroot, or plantains, with the double object of affording shade to the delicate cacao plant and of producing an immediate income.

The growing of these by-products is continued until the fifth or sixth year, when the cacao tree, having reached a height of from 8 to 9 feet, commences to bear fruit and enters upon a stage of perfect vitality. The cultivation is limited to caring for the plant until it reaches maturity, and then cleaning and weeding once a year. The first few years the plant is occasionally pruned in order that it may more quickly "run to fruit." The sediment spread over the land by the rains during the wet season and the decaying vegetation appear to afford sufficient nutriment to the trees, but on some "haciendas" the proprietors pile up leaves and other vegetable matter at the foot of the tree. They also rub down the bark with coarse cloths to destroy adhering parasites. In six or seven years the tree commences to bear small pods, which scarcely repay the effort of gathering them. In ten years the tree reaches full maturity, producing on an average 1 pound of dry cacao of good quality. The tree is in bloom during the entire year, but most of the blossoms fall before fructification, which occurs twice a year. The full-grown tree is from 20 to 30 feet high; its leaves are evergreen and lanceolate in form. The base of the main trunk attains a thickness of from 8 to 10 inches; the bark is hard and of a greenish coffee color. The blossom is very small, pinkish white, and wax-like in appearance, growing directly out of the main trunk and branches.

After it fructifies the petals fall off, and from the stamens in the course of from fifty to seventy days an oblong pod is developed. This pod is of a golden color and contains from 20 to 35 grains of cacao enveloped in a gummy liquid which coagulates on exposure to the air. The outer rind is very hard, a sharp instrument being necessary to cut it. Its size varies, according to the variety, from 8 to 15 inches in length by from 2 to 6 inches in thickness. Both the rind and the gummy contents of the pod are porous and blacken in color as soon as gathered, and in Ecuador are of use only to fertilize the soil on which they are cast. The seeds are bitter, are about the size and shape of a large almond, and contain the active principle of theobroma, albumen, phosphates, fatty matter, and water. When dried, they are vitreous in appearance, covered with a skin more or less delicate which is easily removed and which contains a distinct pellicle. The color varies from dark coffee to violet, the latter indicating an inferior grade. As soon as the pods begin to ripen, they are removed from the tree with very

sharp pruning knives attached to the ends of long poles. Machetes are also used wherever the pods can be reached. The pods are heaped in piles by one set of laborers while another set cuts them open with sharp knives and extract the contents. An instrument made of a beef rib is used for extracting the gummy substance and the seeds.

Drying is done on an open, split bamboo and palm platform, where the cacao is exposed to the sun during three or four days. In order that it may dry uniformly and well, laborers are employed to tread it out with their bare feet. If not well dried, the bean is apt to ferment, and if excessively dried it shrinks and finally turns black. The dryers are provided with covers for protection against rain. When dried, considerable pulp yet adheres to the beans, but the cacao is sent to Guayaquil to be sold in this natural state. Reaching that city it is subjected to a cleaning process, when splinters, dirt, and defective beans are removed and the adhering clusters of beans broken apart and dried several times before shipment. During this process the loss in weight is from 4 to 5 per cent. The sacks for foreign shipment contain from 60 to 70 kilograms (132 to 154 pounds) net. The largest proportion of the crop is bought in advance by the merchants of Guayaquil, who loan considerable sums of money during the year for the current expenses of the cacao planters.

The Consul presents a table which gives prices in "sucres" for the last forty-two years in the Guayaquil market. The Ecuadorian "ecndor" (of 10 sucres), he states, is of the exact metallic value of the pound sterling; 1 sucre is therefore worth 48.665 cents in United States gold. The price of cacao in Guayaquil, per 100 pounds, in 1898, averaged from 25 to 30.5 sucres, or from $12.17 to $14.84.

The cost of cultivation is small, not exceeding 6 to 7 sucres per 100 pounds, delivered in Guayaquil. This includes management, cleaning, weeding, harvesting, drying, transporting, and every possible contingency except interest on the capital invested. The tax on cacao estates is 1 mill on the assessed valuation. The taxes on production are local and vary from 30 to 50 cents per 100 pounds. All cacao refining at the port of Guayaquil pays the municipality 8 cents per 100 pounds, 5 of which is for the support of the university of Guayaquil, San Vincente College. The export duty is $1.65 per quintal. The expenses of the producer include freight, varying according to the distance, from 30 cents to $1 per quintal, and unsacking, which is 5 cents per quintal. The taxes for production are usually paid in Guayaquil to the producer's account.

The profits of a plantation depend largely on the quality of the land, management, and nearness to market. From the figures given the Consul by the secretary of the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce he estimates that a "hacienda" of 100,000 trees will produce 1,000 quintals of cacao, which at the present market price, after deducting the maximum expenses, will leave a profit of from 40 to 50 per cent per annum

on the capital invested. This will continue for an indefinite period, as cacao trees last for several generations.

In his report Mr. DE LEON gives full information with respect to the prices, character of labor, and the title of lands and how they may be obtained.

The production of cacao in the world in 1897 was 75,680 tons, of which Ecuador produced 22,000 tons; all of the remainder, with the exception of 11,210 tons, was produced on the American Continent. This does not include that produced in Mexico and the Central American States, because they only supplied local requirements. Ecuador's production was distributed among the following provinces: Los Rios, 12,000 tons; Guayas, 4,000 tons; El Oro, 3,000 tons; Manavi, 2,200 tons; Esmeraldas, 800 tons. The production has been increasing since 1836, and it is estimated that the total crop in 1899 will be 30,000 tons. In 1836 the quantity produced was 109,185 quintals; in 1898, 421,793 quintals. The commerce of cacao is increasing at the rate of from 5 to 6 per cent annually, and it is claimed that within eight or ten years the demand will be greater than the supply. The attempt to introduce the culture of this product in other tropical countries has not been attended with favorable results. In no other part of the world can its cultivation be brought to the flourishing condition which prevails in Ecuador, where there is still a vast extent of land suitable for new and productive estates. All that is necessary is capital and energy which will be welcome, and which, it is believed, will surely come when the railway to Quito is built, for no other line of agriculture shows such tempting returns.

GUATEMALA.

THE CULTIVATION OF RUBBER.

An article published in "L'Echo des Deux Mondes," of August 12, 1899, gives the following information: The Guatemalan Government, desiring to encourage the cultivation of the rubber plant in the Republic, has decreed: (1) That the collection of rubber, which is very abundant in the forests of the coast, will not be permitted except under special license issued by the Government; (2) that a premium, consisting of a gratuitous concession of 112 acres, will be granted to owners of every 20,000 rubber trees from three to four years old planted after the promulgation of this decree.

IMPORTANT TO CULTIVATORS OF RAMIE.

The attention of persons interested in the cultivation and manufacture of ramie is invited to the fact that the Bureau of the American Republics has received a communication from Señor Don ENRIQUE DÍAZ DURÁN, director-general of agriculture of the Republic of

Guatemala, in which he refers to the article upon this subject which appeared in the September, 1897, number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, and expresses the hope that persons interested in the plant named will place themselves in communication with him, as he is desirous of endeavoring to spread the cultivation of this valuable fiber in Guatemala. The address of the gentleman named is Guatemala City, Guatemala, Central America.

AN IMPORTANT PATENT.

Mr. J. JALLEGO, of San José, has been granted letters patent by the United States authorities for a telegraph relay. The "Telegraph Age" states that the object of the inventor is to provide a relay having powerful magnetic effect, the strength of which can be readily adjusted. The core of the magnet has a right-angle extension pivoted to it at one end, and the armature pivoted on an axis perpendicular to that of the extended pole piece. By moving these parts upon their pivots the distances between the pole pieces and their distance from the armature are altered. The invention is said to be a very important one.

HAITI.

SHIPMENT OF SORTED COFFEE.

The "International Customs Journal" reports that in accordance with the instructions issued by the Secretary of State for Finance and Commerce, under date of June 22, 1899, notice is thereby given that shipment of sorted coffee will henceforth only be permitted in the proportion of 10 bags per 100 bags of marketable coffee, the shipment of both kinds of coffee being effected simultaneously. Sorted coffee exported shall continue to be liable to 2 gourdes, gold, tax per 100 pounds.

HONDURAS.

MOVEMENT OF TROPICAL FRUITS.

From Utilla, under date of July 1, 1899, the following report has been received at the Department of State, at Washington, from BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, Consul of the United States at that port:

"The movement of bananas has been fully up to the average on the coast, but Bay Island has not recovered from the storm here last October and November. The crop of pineapples, mangoes, and other fruits has not been favorable this season on account of the want of rain. Prices are as follows: Bananas, 25 cents, gold, per bunch; plantains,

$6.66, gold, per thousand. The banana trust undertook to put the prices down, but the planters combined and refused to furnish bananas to the trust so long as their ships could take the fruit. The Bluefields Banana Company is now serving this section regularly, and its steamers are getting fair cargoes. Imports are up to the average for this season of the year."

MEXICO.

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN 1899.

"El Economista Mexicano" for August 26, 1899, contains a number of statistical tables which give a résumé of the foreign trade of the Republic for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899. The figures which were obtained from the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department (Sección de Estadística de la Secretaría de Hacienda), are very complete and exhibit a flattering state of affairs. Both the value of the imports and of the exports show a large increase over the official figures of 1898. The increase for the former was about 16.67 per cent and for the latter 7.37 per cent. The imports for the year aggregated $50,869,194 (gold valuation), a gain of $7,265,702 over 1898. The exports amounted to $138,478,137 (silver valuation), a gain of $9,505,388.

The classification of imports, with the value of each class for the years 1898 and 1899, and the gain or loss for each were as follows:

Classification.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Animal products	$3,551,109	$2,337,444	$1,213,665
Vegetable products	7,246,284	6,069,229	1,177,055
Mineral products	12,284,413	11,394,581	889,832
Textile products	9,605,894	8,155,367	1,450,527
Chemical and pharmaceutical products	2,078,405	1,946,456	131,949
Spirits and beverages	2,662,356	2,254,184	408,172
Paper and paper products	1,829,164	1,361,316	467,848
Machinery and apparatus	7,988,362	6,270,652	1,717,710
Vehicles	1,069,979	1,100,373	*30,394
Arms and explosives	1,231,665	1,618,233	*386,568
Miscellaneous	1,321,563	1,095,657	225,906
Total	50,869,194	43,603,492	7,265,702

* Loss.

The totals for the grand divisions were as follows, with the gain or loss for each:

Division.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Europe	$26,267,378	$21,857,220	$4,410,158
Asia	152,221	65,800	86,421
Africa	20,267	25,350	*5,083
America	24,429,328	21,655,122	2,774,206

* Loss.

The imports from the principal European countries were: Germany, $5,677,925—gain, $896,104; Spain, $2,969,936—gain, $930,804; France, $5,917,167—gain, $481,469; Great Britain, $9,211,221—gain, $1,105,525; Belgium, $707,408—gain, $117,212; Austria, $320,218—gain, $195,074; India, $337,006—gain, $182,891; Italy, $380,889—gain, $194,616; Switzerland, $332,739—gain, $176,107.

The trade with Asia was almost wholly with China and Japan, and over three-fourths of that with Africa was with Egypt.

With regard to America, the imports were nearly all from the United States, as the table will show.

Country.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
United States	$24,164,687	$21,490,604	$2,674,083
Argentine Republic	126	90	36
Bolivia	96	.....	96
Brazil	5,621	8,658	*3,037
Colombia	48,764	24,127	24,637
Cuba	24,205	1,130	23,075
Chile	3,787	867	2,920
Ecuador	87,315	73,681	13,634
Guatemala	21,388	14,950	6,438
Honduras	4,803	.....	4,803
Paraguay	12	.....	12
Peru	9,834	314	9,526
Salvador	813	3,648	*2,835
Santo Domingo	145	38	107
Uruguay	341	52	289
Venezuela	57,391	36,963	20,428

*Loss.

The great bulk of the imports were received at the Gulf and northern ports of entry. In the official report the receipts of merchandise for each port are given, but for convenience they are grouped into four sections, or classes, namely:

Section.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Northern frontier	$14,723,236	$12,822,165	$1,901,071
Southern frontier	162,918	233,002	*70,084
Gulf of Mexico	32,697,849	27,290,731	5,407,118
Pacific Ocean	3,285,191	3,257,594	27,597

*Loss.

The following were the classes of exports and the valuation of each for the two years:

Class.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Mineral products	$86,257,851	$83,392,589	$2,865,262
Vegetable products	40,371,661	34,743,290	5,628,371
Animal products	9,205,128	8,889,147	315,981
Manufactured products	2,615,768	1,909,761	706,007
Miscellaneous products	27,729	37,762	*10,233
Total	138,478,137	128,972,749	9,505,388

*Loss.

There were no exports in 1899 to either Asia or Africa, but in 1898 merchandise to the value of $4,312 was sent to Asia. The exports to Europe amounted to $28,718,088 in 1899 against $30,905,831 in 1898, a

decrease of $2,187,743. To America the figures for 1899—$109,760,049—show a gain of $11,697,443. Almost all of this gain was due to the purchases of the United States and Cuba. The principal European countries receiving Mexican products in both years and the amounts for each year were:

Country.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Great Britain	$14,095,178	$14,775,638	*$680,460
Germany	4,020,307	6,995,733	*2,975,426
France	6,252,293	5,320,016	932,277
Belgium	2,577,688	1,556,090	1,021,598
Spain	1,172,948	1,231,342	*58,394
Holland	477,709	719,322	*241,613
Russia	53,199	270,370	*217,171
Italy	34,952	30,600	4,352
Austria	25,838		25,838

* Loss.

The American countries taking Mexican products were:

Country.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
United States	$103,553,486	$94,974,616	$8,578,870
Porto Rico	3,000		3,000
Cuba	5,257,884	2,152,544	3,105,340
Brazil	245		245
Chile		603	*603
Colombia	64,977	2,260	62,717
Costa Rica	3,354	505	2,849
Ecuador	366	342	24
Guatemala	483,375	846,016	*362,641
Honduras	195,299	5,250	190,049
Nicaragua	702	390	312
Peru	967	7,999	*7,032
Salvador	61,024	21,191	39,833
Santo Domingo	124,170	50,720	73,450
Venezuela	11,200	170	11,030

* Loss.

With reference to ports, the merchandise exported was from the following sections:

Section.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Northern frontier	$33,241,788	$35,183,281	$1,941,493
Southern frontier	1,521,692	1,948,300	*426,608
Gulf of Mexico	92,637,414	80,785,690	11,851,724
Pacific Ocean	11,077,243	11,055,478	21,765

* Loss.

YUCATAN AND THE TWINE MARKET.

The stringency prevailing in the twine market has led many manufacturers and dealers to adopt the opinion that sisal growers in Yucatan hold the key to the entire situation. The present conditions in Yucatan and the strong financial position occupied at present by producers of sisal fiber point to a continuance of the present prices, if not to an increase. In 1897, the price of this fiber declined to $2\frac{3}{4}$ cents, and remained at that low figure for many months. Deducting the cost of transportation and brokerage, there was very little profit for the farmer, even though the average cost per pound for production did not exceed

2 cents. Prices have, however, advanced rapidly within the past year, in July, 1898, touching a valuation of 9½ cents, and since that time have not declined below 5½ cents. For the past eighteen months the average price realized by the growers has been about 6 cents, making a profit of 4 cents per pound. Should there be a decline in the manila market, the fiber men who have recently visited Yucatan do not offer much consolation to those who build their hopes upon low-priced sisal fiber.

A London hemp broker, in his monthly fiber report, says, concerning the prospects for a short supply of Manila hemp:

"The position, broadly speaking, is as follows: The world's annual consumption is fully 9,000,000 bales. The production for 1897 and 1898 was 875,000 and 742,000 bales, respectively, while the current year will, in every probability, show a still greater falling off, the receipts to date being only 316,000 bales. Reserves in consumers' hands are becoming more and more attenuated, and must in some quarters have almost reached vanishing point."

Under normal conditions the natural tendency of fiber prices at the close of the harvest is toward recession, but no such symptoms are apparent at present; on the contrary, manila hemp, and sympathetically sisal hemp, are advancing steadily.

Cable advices received from Manila, under date of July 31, show slightly larger receipts during the week ending July 29, namely, 16,000 bales, the net stock in Manila being 93,000 bales against 135,000 in 1897 and about as much in 1898. The total shipments for the first seven months of the year are more than 100,000 bales short of the figures last year, the total since January 1 having been 148,000 bales. The value of sisal hemp shipped annually from Yucatan is estimated at $16,000,000.

In consequence of these conditions experiments are being made with numerous fibrous plants which are affirmed to be capable of manufacture into marketable twine, the most important being the "wire-grass" of the western United States, which has hitherto been regarded as worthless.

It is interesting, in this connection, to note the advanced valuation of Mexican sisal during the present year in comparison with that quoted for 1897 and 1898. For the seven months ending July, 1897, the quantity imported is given by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, as 39,980 tons, with a value of $2,421,735; for 1898, during the same period, the quantity increased to 43,060 tons, with the more than corresponding increase in valuation of $4,553,370, while the seven months of 1899 indicate a still greater disproportion in quantity and valuation, as 39,305 tons were received, whose total value is represented as almost twice that of 1897, or $4,999,392.

Manila hemp shows a corresponding inflation, the figures for the seven months of 1898 and 1899 being, respectively, 27,088 tons, valued at $1,781,058, and 28,182 tons, with a valuation of $3,126,261.

GROWTH OF TRADE WITH ST. LOUIS.

The "St. Louis Finance," a monthly "review of Southwestern United States investments, banking, realty, and economics," in its issue for August, 1899, contains an article showing that the volume of trade between the city of St. Louis and the principal cities of Mexico is increasing steadily and that the business relations already established are mutually satisfactory. The observations of this publication are confirmed by "Modern Mexico," especially devoted to Mexico and Mexican trade, and the daily press of St. Louis, having the direct interests of that city at heart. The article referred to reads, in part, as follows:

"Not everyone knows how rapid has been the growth of St. Louis' trade with Mexico, but it has grown and is growing very rapidly. Our sister Republic of the South has gradually grown away from primitive methods of mercantile business which so hampered our relations with her in the past, and by adopting modern business methods and opening up avenues of trade generally our business with her has been largely increased. It is not so long ago that whatever was done with Mexican merchants or Mexican citizens as individual purchasers came through the mails. As an indication of our growth of commerce with them, it is significant that at the present time, notwithstanding that business methods have undergone such radical changes as will leave the mail-order business to be only a small fractional part of the whole, yet this same mail-order portion is more than four times what it was two years ago. St. Louis has enjoyed a larger portion of Mexican trade than any other United States city, and manufacturers and merchants here are seeing to it that this condition of affairs shall continue. Large numbers of traveling men are sent into Mexico now, and, in addition, the relationship between Mexican merchants and the manufacturers and wholesalers here has been so carefully nurtured, that many of the Mexican dealers are making personal trips to St. Louis in the regular seasons to purchase goods. The old-time methods in the matter of payments and credit have also become obsolescent, and instead of being given six months to a year's time the Mexican merchant now pays with more promptness, buys on shorter time, and takes advantage of cash discounts whenever possible. While Mexico and the United States are upon the same continent and are somewhat closely affiliated, yet in the matter of productions naturally indigenous to each they are so much at variance that exchanges should be very large. By maintenance of the present relationship and by the encouragement through every means compatible with good business the trade in question will grow to be a benefit and profit to both countries."

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Mr. LÉON SCHOENFELD, Vice Consul of France at Tampico, Mexico, in a report recently addressed to his Government, treats of the economic situation in Mexico, which, owing to the development of the export

trade during late years, is undergoing radical modifications. He calls attention to the value of the Mexican dollar, which six months ago was worth 2 francs 35 centimes. It is now quoted at 2 francs 51 centimes, and, in the opinion of banking men, will further advance, before the end of the year, to 3 francs.

Mexican coffee which sold readily in 1895 for 30 piastres (pesos) has fallen to from 15 to 18 piastres. Mr. SCHOENFELD attributes this decline to Brazilian production, which suffices for the world's consumption, and further states that while the Brazilian planter pays in paper at the exchange rate of 425 to 450 per cent the Mexican planter pays in piastres at the rate of 98 to 102 per cent. The former can sell his produce in New York at $7 (gold) with profit, while the latter, selling at the same price, either loses outright or gains nothing. On the subject of sugar cane the opinion is expressed that its production will be remunerative until the supply shall exceed the local demand, thus forcing exportation. A considerable increase in the price of the leading crops is reported from all centers, labor being scarce and showing a tendency to advance in value continually. Referring to the frosts which have desolated the Gulf coast from Coatzacoalcos to Soto-la-Marina, it is estimated that the loss of crops between Veralmy and Tuxpam is not less than 9,000,000,000 piastres, which fact, the vice-consul fears, may arrest the immigration movement which has been so marked since 1894.

He considers that coffee planting can no longer give satisfactory results except to well-established planters, and even then only when the plantations are near railways or navigable waters. The raising of horned cattle, mining on the coasts and lesser mountain chains, and the cultivation of cereals are industries quoted as promising and destined to become leading sources of wealth for the Republic. With regard to the climate of the Gulf, Mr. SCHOENFELD cites it as undeniably unhealthy, and only to be endured by persons of a robust constitution. Its effects may, however, be overcome to some extent by following a severe hygienic regimen and by occupying dwellings elevated about one meter above the soil.

RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF TABASCO.

Mr. MARTIN, French Consular Agent at San Juan, Bautista, has just forwarded to his Government a report on the resources of the State of Tabasco, the industries, commerce, and trade of that part of Mexico. Tabasco is the most fertile of all the States of the Mexican Republic; its climate and topography are such that it is a favored region for the development of agriculture. All tropical products can be cultivated—corn, beans, rice, cacao, coffee, sugar cane, rubber, pepper, tobacco, vanilla, bananas, cocoa, oranges, etc. With selected seeds it would be possible to produce in Tabasco a species of superior tobacco. The cacao of Tabasco is recognized as the best in the world, but it is cultivated on a very small scale and is not sufficient for local needs. Coffee

trees are in bearing from the third year, the conditions of the soil being favorable, and rubber has a most promising future. The soil is especially adapted for the culture of sugar cane. Numerous plantations have been under cultivation for twenty, thirty, and forty years, and give excellent returns. Vanilla, like rubber, grows wild in the forests, and its cultivation would be very easy and profitable.

In reference to industrial matters, this report makes mention of certain industries of the State of Tabasco, of which the most important are the exploitation of mahogany, cedar from the virgin forests, and of the dyewood called "logwood." Leaf tobacco is also exported, as well as some manufactured products for the markets of New York and Europe. Mr. MARTIN adds that there are also factories producing tiles, bricks, candles, soap, and matches, all of which make good returns. Commerce in Tabasco has undergone a surprising development, and imports of foreign products increase each year.

Machinery, furniture, various agricultural implements, some cotton goods, and different textiles are furnished from North America, and the greater part of the merchandise imported comes from Spain. Wines, liquors, perfumes, and some jewelry come from France, while Germany sends articles of tinware. In conclusion, Mr. MARTIN considers it no exaggeration to predict that within a few years the trade of Tabasco will be increased threefold.

THE MANUFACTURE OF JUTE.

By means of a concession, the burden of which has been felt neither by the Treasury of the Republic, by the company receiving it, nor by the consumer, a new and lucrative industry has been established in Mexico. On December 3, 1892, the Mexican Government entered into a contract with Mr. T. F. E. KINELL, who was authorized to establish, within five years, four jute factories in localities selected by the Government. A capital of $200,000 (Mexican currency) was required, $10,000 of this to be invested in bonds of the National consolidated debt.

Work upon the first factory was begun nine months from the promulgation of the contract, with the further proviso that it should be completed in three years. A liberal provision was made to admit temporarily, free of duty, all machinery and raw materials necessary for the successful starting of the manufactory. In addition, exemption from all Federal taxes except the stamp tax was granted for ten years.

Two years from the time of entering upon the contract, and one year before the date stipulated, the first establishment for the manufacture of jute in Mexico, and the first in the world to be operated by electricity, was inaugurated. Stimulated by the privileges granted Mr. KINELL, a company was organized in London, England, having a capital of $487,000, which later was increased to $730,000. By the permission of the Mexican Government Mr. KINELL transferred his contract to

this company, which now owns and operates the factory at Congregación de Barrio Nuevo, 1 mile from the city of Orizaba.

Power for the plant is furnished by means of electricity obtained from the cascade of Barrio Nuevo, which, having a fall of 117 feet, can supply 12,000 horsepower in the rainy season. At present more than 600 operatives are employed, but the number is soon to be increased to 1,000. The machinery used is very complete, with latest modern improvements. It includes 70 motors, two of them of 150 horsepower, a perfect system of electric lighting, 120 looms, and other machinery. The daily output in 1895 was from 4 to 5 tons; in 1899 it is 8 tons, with prospect of soon reaching 10. The finished products are chiefly floor carpets, sacks for grain, and packing cloth. These are in great demand and compete successfully with the same class of imported goods.

DEVELOPING A NEW COAL FIELD.

The "Coal Trade Journal" of August 23, 1899, reports that a party of capitalists, headed by WILLIAM H. INGHAM, of Philadelphia, has secured a very important railway concession in Mexico, the first under the new railway law of April 29, 1899.

It is the intention of the concessionaries to build a railway from Guaymas to San Marcial, a distance of 100 miles. Their purpose is to mine the coal in the San Marcial Valley, in the State of Sonora, conveying it by rail to Guaymas for shipment along the Pacific coast.

The Philadelphia syndicate is known as the "Pacific Coast Coal Company," represented by Mr. EDWARD VAN BUREN HOES, through whom purchases have been made of all the coal rights, as well as all the necessary water rights on some 30,000 acres of land. The bill of transfer was signed in the city of Hermosilla, the capital of the State of Sonora, on June 2, 1899. The property has been in the possession of the Johnson family, citizens of the United States, for nearly one hundred years. It is located about 750 feet above sea level, and a village of 600 inhabitants forms part of the immense estate.

The work of prospecting for coal began in October, 1898, and was kept up until, in some cases, the borings were to a depth of 500 feet. The prospectors cut through all the consequent strata of soil and all other formations incident to the best kinds of coal and found anthracite carrying a large percentage of fixed carbon, and it is believed that the mines will develop largely.

Under the contract the company has a ninety-nine years' franchise, including the privilege of fifteen years' exemption from all Federal and State taxes and five years' exemption from import duty on all supplies and material for the railway. One year is allowed for exploration and three years for construction. The railway is to have a right-of-way strip of 70 meters.

It is believed that the development of these coal deposits by such an experienced group of coal operators will mean very much for the

Republic. Some coal has been found in Coahuila, but it has been monopolized, and the result is that at present coal along the Pacific coast is from $15 to $20 per ton. Even in San Francisco, at times, it is sold at $18 per ton.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN JULY.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to the Mexican Consuls at the different ports named for the trade statistics between Mexico and the United States for the month of July, 1899, as follows:

New York: Exports to Mexico, 101,503 packages; imports from Mexico, 86,477 packages.

The imports consisted chiefly of henequen, 12,141 bales; coffee, 6,108 bags; hides, 1,392 bales; hides, 6,197 loose; broom root, 1,309 bales; lead bars, 31,810; minerals, 12,663 packages; cedar logs, 1,278; copper bars, 5,881.

San Francisco: Exports to Mexico, valued at $84,294; imports from Mexico, valued at $420,974. Of this latter amount $366,061 represents the value of metals introduced.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Mobile, Ala., reports that the exports to Mexico from his station during the month of August, 1899, amounted in value to $14,880.07.

San Diego, Cal.: Exports to Mexico, 4,785 packages, valued at $12,197.

PROPOSED WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR TAMPICO.

Mr. JAMES E. MAGILL, United States Consul in Tampico, under date of July 19, 1899, informed the Department of State at Washington that the Governor of the State of Tamaulipas had authorized the city of Tampico to proceed with the construction of a system of waterworks and sewerage. He adds that his report is somewhat in advance of the official city notice, but that he sends it in order that corporations or individuals interested in such contracts may write to the Consul, or their own agents in Mexico, to get the plans and details as soon as published.

CORPORATION FOR MINING LEAD.

In July, 1899, the "Mexican Lead Company" filed incorporation papers in Trenton, New Jersey (United States of America). This corporation was organized by Mr. ROBERT S. TOWNE, president of the Northern Railway Company, of Mexico, and by others connected with the "Compañía Metalurgica Mexicana." The company is capitalized at $7,000,000 and will operate lead mines in the vicinity of Monterey.

The Mexican Northern Railway Company operates a line running into the mining property of the newly organized corporation. The

same syndicate which controls the railroad line also operates the "Alvarez Land and Timber Company" and the "Sombrerete Mining Company."

MEXICAN MINERAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

The "Mexican Mineral Railroad Company" was recently incorporated in the city of Albany, New York (United States of America), with a capital stock of $350,000. The entire road is to be situated within the State of Nuevo León, extending from the city of Monterey to the San Pedro mining district. The directors named are GEORGE D. COOK and GEORGE B. TURNER, of Chicago, and WILLIAM F. GILLESBY, ROBERT S. TOWNE, CHARLES J. NOURSE, Jr., GEORGE F. PEABODY, EDWARD M. SHEPARD, ACOSTA NICHOLS, and CHARLES J. PEABODY, of New York.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The question of laying a submarine cable between Vera Cruz and Progreso is again being mooted.

An official statement of the National Department of Promotion gives the population of the Republic at 12,619,959.

The Government of the State of Colima has signed a contract with an old-established company to install an electric-light plant in the capital of that State.

The contract for several miles of sewer pipe for the city of Saltillo has been awarded to a San Antonio, Texas, firm on their bid of $60,000.

A company has been organized in Albany, New York, for the purpose of working mines now unworked in Mexico, and has a capital of $2,000,000. The corporation will first confine the work to the States of Guanajuato and Michoacan.

The War Department in the National Palace, city of Mexico, is being provided with electric lights by an American firm, which will replace the old gas jets which formerly illuminated the interior of this Department.

The Mexican Government has given authority and awarded the contract for the laying of a cable from the port of Altata, State of Sinaloa, to La Paz, Lower California, a distance of 114 miles. The work must be completed within six months.

Several of the larger mines of the Parral district, State of Chihuahua, are to be equipped with electric-light and power plants. The machinery for these improvements has been ordered in the United States.

The Electric Light Company of Guadaloupe is installing four new dynamos at the falls of Juanacatlan, near the city, to supply the increased demand for power and light. Many important improvements to the extensive plant of the Guadaloupe Power Company have been made within the past two years.

The demand for electric power transmission machinery for plantation use is growing in the southern States of the Republic. A large shipment of machinery of this class from New York City was recently received at Vera Cruz, consigned to extensive sugar and coffee plantations.

On August 1 work was begun on the new branch of the Mexican International Railroad, which runs from Bermejillo station on the main line through very rich sections of the States of Durango and Coahuila. The initiation of this work has attracted considerable capital and population to the cities and towns along the route of branch line.

According to the "Nouveau Monde" (Paris), of August 12, 1899, a large number of rubber plants have been sent to the Mexican Minister of Fomento for distribution among such agriculturists as desire to undertake the culture of this article. These plants are of a special variety and without doubt will give good results in the tropical regions of Mexico.

The war department of Mexico has contracted with the firm of G. & O. BRANIFF, of the City of Mexico, to furnish the material and construct all telephone lines that may be required by that department. As the Government proposes to build many extensions of military telephone lines throughout the country, this is a very important contract.

The Parian gold mines in the State of Oaxaca are now being actively worked and the influx of laborers to the locality is very great. Reports from the mineral region named show that for many years past Oaxaca has not known a region so rich and which presents conditions so advantageous for extracting and shipping the ore. It is expected that within a few months Parian will be a populous and active commercial center.

The Mexican Government has placed an order for a number of small steel boats with New Orleans boat builders. These vessels are to be constructed as quickly as possible, under Government supervision, so that they may be used in the campaign against the Maya Indians in the State of Yucatan. The territory that these savages inhabit borders along the Belize and Hondo and is almost inaccessible to white men except by the rivers named.

Mr. FRANCISCO ARMENDAIZ, a capitalist of Monterey, is making arrangements for the construction of a railroad which will connect Matamoras with Monterey and Laredo. The project is said to be an important one, as it will result in the opening of several ports on the Gulf of Mexico. One of the most important features in connection with the railroad will be the building of a breakwater, 3 miles in length. All materials and machinery needed for the undertaking are to be contracted for by Mr. ARMENDAIZ.

Leon, the metropolis of the State of Guanajuato, is making rapid strides in the way of population and industries. This is the great shawl-making center of the neighboring Republic, and it is said that

there are 500 looms each producing five shawls in daily operation. Besides these mills there are two iron foundries, two flour mills, a hat factory, a ribbon and a shoe factory, a brewery, a tannery, and a brick manufactory, all of which use steam as a motive power. There are also 17 other establishments which utilize this agent in their operations.

The Mexican Central Railroad Company has recently signed a contract for the construction of the new Government wharf at Tampico. The expense involved will be about $1,000,000. The new structure will replace the former wharf, which was destroyed by fire more than a year ago, and will be built entirely of steel. In order to protect the metal from the corrosive action of the salt water a coat of special varnish will be applied periodically to all the exposed parts. The plans for the structure were the work of Señor LUIS SALAZAR, and were approved by the Minister of Public Works.

The farmers of Central Mexico as well as those of the frontier States have been blessed with an abundance of rains, and crops of all kinds were never more promising. The wheat crop is harvested, and corn gives promise of a large yield, insuring plenty of money to the agriculturists. Mr. W. N. STROUD, agent for the Rock Island Power Company, of Dallas, Tex., reports that he has been over a great portion of the Republic, and his observation is that Mexico is enjoying an almost unprecedented year of prosperity. He reports also a good run of trade and the sale of over 500 disk plows within the last two months.

"El Nacional," of Mexico City, recently published a history of the famous "Cerro del Mercado," which is a solid mountain of iron, in the State of Durango. From this history it appears that the National Mexican Iron and Steel Company, most of the stock of which is held by Americans residing in the United States, owns 111 claims and has an iron foundry at the foot of the mountain. E. STALH KUECHE & CO. own 40 claims, and sell iron to the Monterey smelters. The Monterey Smelting and Refining Company has just denounced 16 claims; Messrs. FRANCISCO IRASOQUE, DIEGO VEREA, and MARTIN SALTSER own 50 claims; JOHN H. CAMPBELL owns 41 claims, and Messrs. CARLOS BRACHO and HENRY C. CREEL own 32 claims.

It is reported that the formal inauguration of the first electric railway in the Republic will take place in the City of Mexico some time during the latter part of September. The work of converting the "Federal District Street Railway" Company's system in that city from mule to electric power is making great progress. Most of the material, which had been ordered from the United States, has been received. The greater part of the heavy rails, from the suburbs of Guadalupe to the limits of the city at Peralvillo, thence to the Zocalo and on to the south at Piedad Gate, and thence to the suburbs of Tacubaya, San Pedro, Mixcoac, and San Angel are laid, and the erection of the poles for the transmission wires is now in progress.

So soon as the rainy season is over work will be begun on the Vera Cruz and Pacific Railroad. This great line will start from a point near Cordoba, on the Mexican Railroad, and run through very fertile regions in the southeastern part of the Republic, abounding in tobacco, sugar, and coffee lands, until it reaches Santa Lucrecia, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. This road will place the capital of the nation in direct communication with the southeastern portion of the Republic, and, aside from affording great advantages to trade, will be of strategic value to the Government. The subsidy granted by the Government to this line is $16,000 per kilometer for the main line and $8,000 per kilometer on the branch line from Vera Cruz to a point near Papaloapan. The length of the main line will be 350 kilometers, and of the branch line 100, the total subsidy not exceeding $6,000,000.

PARAGUAY.

PROPOSED METALLIC CURRENCY.

The great depreciation in the paper currency of Paraguay, and the want of a circulating metallic money being recognized throughout the Republic, Señores ENRIQUE SÁ Y CA., of Montevideo, Uruguay, recently presented a petition to the Government of the first-named country which contains a proposal to coin $2,400,000 in gold, silver, and nickel pieces.

The firm's proposal includes the substitution of the present copper subsidiary coins by the universally accepted nickel. It is proposed to coin $1,000,000 in gold, $1,000,000 in silver, and $400,000 in nickel, the firm binding itself to introduce into the country, free of all charge and duty and for the term of six years from the date of the signing of the contract with the supreme Government, the above-named amount, divided up as follows: Gold coins, 50,000 pieces of $10 each; 75,000 of $5 each, and 50,000 of $2.50 each. Silver coins, 350,000 pieces of $1 each; 650,000 pieces of $0.50 each; 1,125,000 pieces of $0.20 each, and 1,000,000 of $0.10 each. Nickel coin, 4,000,000 of $0.05 each; 3,000,000 of $0.04 each; 3,000,000 of $0.02 each, and 2,000,000 of $0.01 each.

The gold and silver coins are to be .900 fine and subject to the other conditions prescribed by the International Latin Convention, while the nickel coins will also conform to the regulations laid down by said convention. The obverse of the gold coin will bear the national coat of arms, with the inscription "República del Paraguay," and the year of coinage, while the reverse will contain the denomination, value, and name of the coin. The silver coins will have the same edge as the Spanish dollar, and the nickel coins will have a form similar to the copper coins now in circulation in the country. The contractors shall have

the option of coining this money in any official establishment of a nation having a treaty with Paraguay, either in America or Europe. The matrixes and other materials used in the coining shall be the property of the State, and shall be delivered to the authorities of the same, together with the last issue of metallic money coined under the contract. The introduction of the new coins is to commence within eighteen months after the date of the contract, with the privilege of extending the term to twenty-four months should justifiable causes arise. So soon as the amount introduced by the contractor exceeds the sum of $400,000 the Government is to decree the demonetization of all foreign coins now circulating in the country and make the new issue legal tender throughout the Republic. The contractors reserve the right to assign the contract with the approval of the supreme Government. Should the amounts stipulated in the contract be insufficient to meet the requirements of the Government, they may be increased by mutual agreement. The contractors offer to furnish a good and sufficient bond to secure the faithful performance of their obligations.

PERU.

CHANGE IN THE UNIT OF VALUE.

In the course of an article under the caption, "South American Trade Should Come this Way," the "Journal of Finance," New York, for September, says that it is interesting and perhaps important to observe that Peru has changed the unit of value in her monetary system from the "sol," which is equivalent to the silver dollar of the United States, to the "libra," which equals the English pound sterling. This alteration is one of the results of substituting the gold standard for the silver standard of currency by the Peruvian Republic.

The adoption of this new monetary unit is doubtless due to the fact that the bulk of the trade of Peru is with Great Britain, and it is therefore desirable to establish a similarity of currency between the two countries in order to facilitate commercial transactions and at the same time to make exchange more convenient. In the course of the same article, the Journal says that Americans would do well to note that the English are endeavoring in every possible way to strengthen the financial and commercial ties between Great Britain and the various countries in the southern half of our hemisphere. The success which has attended the efforts of some of the manufacturers of the United States to sell goods in South America has not passed unnoticed by their British rivals, and the latter are making strenuous efforts to retain and increase their trade in that quarter of the globe.

PRODUCTS OF THE CINCHONA TREE.

As is well known, quinine (Peruvian and calisaya bark), are the products of the cinchona tree, which is a native of western South America, more particularly of the Republic of Peru, though at the present time but a small part of the supply of the world comes from that country. Two-thirds of the quinine consumed is produced in the island of Java, from cultivated trees, the young plants having been procured by the Dutch Government from Peru in 1852. The English Government also started cinchona plantations in India, which now produce large quantities of quinine.

The official figures in the report of the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department of the United States, show that there were imported last year into this country 1,539,056,750 grains of quinine, or about 20 grains for each inhabitant. More than 125,000,000 grains were consumed by the United States soldiers during the past year, and it is stated that the people of this country consume one-third of the quinine of the world.

No figures are available which would show the amount of Peruvian bark imported by the United States in 1898, but according to the official statistics of Great Britain, Peruvian bark to the value of £34,339 was imported by that country in the first six months of 1899. During the same period the exports of Peruvian bark, of which the United States took a considerable share, amounted to £40,750.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement, from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, O. P. AUSTIN, Chief, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of July, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the seven months ending July, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the

returns for July, for example, are not published until some time in September:

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche*)—				
Mexico	.....	$1,020	$1,792	$11,565
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	$19,140	15,451	121,654	136,503
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao*):				
Central America	4,520	.....	4,520	809
Brazil	6,214	46,094	96,224	250,460
Other South America	98,497	272,035	781,265	995,760
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	101,111	249,735	3,616,396	4,818,734
Mexico	32,212	138,437	2,571,057	2,352,639
Brazil	1,529,092	2,063,965	20,271,519	22,906,297
Other South America	469,996	515,602	4,931,059	4,682,877
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	21,416	19,550	128,774	104,854
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequen; Henequen; Hennequen*)—				
Mexico	1,460,515	525,561	4,553,370	4,999,392
Philippine Islands	131,565	879,684	1,781,058	3,126,261
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	137,774	207,302	1,020,392	1,191,234
South America	30,330	126,135	339,777	634,432
Cuba	.....	17,413	.....	78,405
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	960	4,699	1,695	8,625
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America	17,977	19,482	50,123	107,208
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	12,192	41,399	105,330	185,418
Mexico	75,561	138,616	1,104,388	1,276,077
South America	871,394	809,123	5,998,353	6,592,134
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	32,790	56,840	272,311	563,032
Mexico	1,158	12,010	29,137	113,377
Brazil	567,156	536,103	8,417,514	12,029,081
Other South America	84,031	75,259	387,127	558,750
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc.; plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	118,895	181,407	913,905	1,197,767
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	5,207	25,398	200,356	161,364
Mexico	1,401	17,322	42,058	64,042
Cuba	.....	2,000,274	9,743,538	15,061,704
Brazil	47,253	.....	2,350,166	681,865
Other South America	285,178	494,948	2,925,559	2,918,988
Hawaiian Islands	1,809,218	2,562,051	11,191,241	13,046,813
Philippine Islands	68,832	.....	296,583	110,575
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	16,409	3,834	97,418	20,419
Cuba	21,066	276,727	1,651,420	4,024,255

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	$56,332	$1,727	$110,679	$163,973
Mexico	25,983	5,755	141,563	248,025
Cuba	.....	8,129	932	34,600
South America	737	434	34,000	9,921
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	9,668	2,583	530,732	464,276
Class 2 (combing)	.....	101	19,020	101
Class 3 (carpet)	32,517	67,255	720,738	357,506

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$455	$176	$1,936	$1,244
Mexico	7,149	27,391	83,388	172,301
Santo Domingo	.....	147	266	716
Cuba	.....	9,879	2,068	46,872
Porto Rico	.....	730	426	3,264
Argentina	53,610	105,218	219,376	786,878
Brazil	2,723	923	16,720	22,756
Colombia	66	135	3,156	445
Other South America	24,438	34,103	114,255	137,544
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	.....	.....	990	165
Mexico	2,390	3,735	57,951	63,812
South America	175	.....	5,137	2,380
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	20	6,659	4,568	62,835
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	1,200	.....	8,395	1,758
Mexico	1,500	5,353	54,486	40,828
South America	.....	.....	1,850	2,120
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	2,040	50	5,855	3,185
South America	285	1,105	6,338	5,125
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	645	571	11,389	23,434
Mexico	5,679	9,255	52,684	40,272
Santo Domingo	.....	134	262	7,298
Cuba	25	4,119	2,759	40,194
Porto Rico	.....	2,474	355	13,323
Argentina	1,041	3,429	14,843	15,542
Brazil	2,587	2,946	30,162	22,355
Colombia	2,085	147	6,526	33,038
Other South America	4,228	3,680	28,318	41,106
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	4,897	3,588	42,351	23,126
Mexico	466	37,506	6,242	85,143
Santo Domingo	.....	51	61	315
Cuba	688	57,832	198,703	290,417
Porto Rico	.....	.....	.....	63
South America	874	4,699	9,932	17,008
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	94,323	50,304	778,618	555,548
Mexico	7,726	11,409	57,478	90,256
Santo Domingo	20,190	3,643	137,827	95,973
Cuba	77,444	182,776	691,010	1,173,996
Porto Rico	.....	39,174	179,421	345,220
Brazil	290,044	122,851	1,710,202	1,696,305
Colombia	38,121	28,163	246,389	288,323
Other South America	62,933	157,644	917,263	913,924

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Breadstuffs—Continued.				
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	$1,800	.....	$23,084	$13,944
Mexico	641	.....	641	609
South America	46	$357	385,677	67,876
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	1,952	714	25,048	11,654
Mexico	27,054	189,548	121,243	507,302
Santo Domingo	535	293	10,458	11,414
Cuba	100	8,764	17,599	84,697
Porto Rico	.....	377	1,429	5,735
Argentina	145,063	17,400	313,116	147,711
Brazil	7,712	39,614	528,262	104,601
Colombia	627	1,227	25,554	8,887
Other South America	16,681	8,142	62,607	25,655
Cycles and parts of (*Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties*):				
Central America	115	573	3,717	3,414
Mexico	6,352	3,839	41,899	29,740
Santo Domingo	71	170	577	298
Cuba	.....	11,803	3,345	32,476
Porto Rico	.....	111	1,206	1,598
Argentina	8,708	7,712	68,579	174,747
Brazil	7,421	2,664	68,441	19,498
Colombia	2,254	205	5,658	4,951
Other South America	2,497	7,786	28,919	34,545
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	7	62	3,931	1,308
Mexico	1,135	2,637	11,650	17,413
Argentina	3,342	3,737	19,761	17,638
Brazil	1,302	5,850	19,385	31,605
Other South America	7,647	6,217	51,235	45,227
Coal (*Carbón; Carvão; Charbon*):				
Central America	1,011	2,174	4,980	9,202
Mexico	99,511	125,069	666,949	851,598
Santo Domingo	26	.....	4,793	5,880
Cuba	11,263	26,812	239,845	443,328
Porto Rico	.....	1,701	6,029	32,285
Brazil	1,340	22,948	68,321	85,830
Colombia	390	3,000	14,636	43,390
Other South America	13,304	10,570	23,670	43,955
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	49,750	8,497	227,974	178,902
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	.....	3,107	561,331	414,076
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	29,332	60,745	239,980	354,319
Mexico	27,196	36,222	260,064	301,583
Santo Domingo	22,838	11,566	90,778	132,912
Cuba	263	99,579	5,951	488,628
Porto Rico	.....	26,886	1,023	100,198
Argentina	22,926	6,718	99,485	78,620
Brazil	49,431	38,612	345,224	246,820
Colombia	25,401	45,141	155,480	253,836
Other South America	80,512	74,250	742,274	708,090
Wearing apparel (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	12,133	20,518	139,237	164,768
Mexico	37,326	32,841	222,578	260,214
Santo Domingo	1,853	517	11,622	12,882
Cuba	2,976	13,759	10,800	108,767
Porto Rico	.....	4,600	746	29,476
Argentina	5,238	3,990	24,197	31,536
Brazil	2,658	2,148	25,681	17,300
Colombia	2,266	4,717	24,389	24,132
Other South America	4,588	14,270	23,304	43,902

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	$1,390	$1,882	$16,359	$15,259
Mexico	4,858	3,636	32,987	38,276
Santo Domingo	87	7	273	326
Cuba	323	8,005	10,934	33,139
Porto Rico	----	716	287	3,387
Argentina	969	1,274	5,570	14,275
Brazil	1,050	573	3,703	5,633
Colombia	341	515	4,538	5,602
Other South America	703	1,017	9,345	9,890
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	----	----	----	----
Mexico	225	96	1,879	1,697
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	1,259	5,041	36,477	36,845
Mexico	29,180	29,697	178,801	273,393
Argentina	13,636	21,868	74,000	156,844
Brazil	4,783	5,680	28,941	58,956
Other South America	5,847	9,592	64,546	77,151
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; trilhos de aço; rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	----	1,246	895	13,281
Mexico	26,862	10,895	433,183	293,630
South America	74,708	4,948	249,550	88,845
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils*)—				
Central America	4,425	8,601	43,809	51,508
Mexico	29,994	52,288	252,020	267,269
Santo Domingo	1,641	1,009	7,219	6,211
Cuba	----	28,617	24,024	227,027
Porto Rico	----	2,179	3,654	18,038
Argentina	9,598	24,002	92,207	131,731
Brazil	14,933	25,636	93,823	138,255
Colombia	7,249	8,715	50,421	66,596
Other South America	15,394	16,729	109,330	136,209
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	361	2,631	13,266	11,099
Mexico	28,604	22,307	133,240	199,877
Santo Domingo	163	64	760	1,355
Cuba	----	4,028	27	15,529
Porto Rico	----	299	1,050	3,572
Argentina	7,272	7,899	41,597	90,604
Brazil	14,288	8,488	61,614	79,222
Colombia	3,612	3,526	41,039	35,578
Other South America	12,916	20,298	61,040	79,048
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	159	221	690	1,213
Mexico	3,617	1,719	21,355	34,367
Santo Domingo	----	59	----	187
Cuba	----	1,375	709	16,297
Argentina	1,465	514	14,434	18,728
Brazil	131	1,210	2,548	5,026
Colombia	177	60	1,571	1,818
Other South America	1,592	1,504	8,917	18,960

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	$828	$1,149	$3,563	$6,411
Mexico	460	2,137	4,112	6,962
Santo Domingo	106	265	186	1,057
Cuba	60	3,209	1,627	16,966
Porto Rico	.....	289	708	6,574
Argentina	4,682	6,342	8,470	26,217
Brazil	3,889	9,425	37,716	44,077
Colombia	100	460	2,272	3,141
Other South America	1,686	5,685	9,366	24,403
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	2,438	7,234	45,121	67,639
Mexico	6,666	29,644	59,307	178,431
Colombia	3,187	3,716	22,512	22,247
Other South America	4,976	3,352	20,902	14,225
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	2,290	1,960	10,638	8,258
Mexico	961	200	6,678	5,500
Santo Domingo	125	347	3,219	2,954
Cuba	.....	923	2,548	7,077
Porto Rico	.....	132	281	699
Argentina	17,151	17,200	57,927	53,822
Brazil	19,628	9,263	92,355	134,217
Colombia	891	126	8,880	6,496
Other South America	3,360	5,864	47,037	35,026
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*)—				
Central America	118	318	1,788	2,856
Mexico	352	553	2,719	3,045
Santo Domingo	37	10	272	385
Cuba	.....	4,024	5,695	32,314
Porto Rico	.....	270	583	3,563
Argentina	13,674	6,499	97,760	39,154
Brazil	5,546	8,046	48,509	32,716
Colombia	448	476	2,724	4,258
Other South America	3,973	5,280	46,129	36,488
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crús; Huiles minérales, brutes*):				
Mexico	57	74,502	152,003	314,932
Cuba	.....	19,121	77,142	128,007
Porto Rico	.....	.....	19,477	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos mineraes, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	7,803	18,200	69,826	88,428
Mexico	10,858	13,406	105,392	132,719
Santo Domingo	442	444	32,001	17,884
Cuba	600	3,240	21,595	80,295
Porto Rico	.....	3,006	9,610	36,939
Argentina	74,285	77,863	582,571	512,629
Brazil	68,537	164,380	863,799	835,776
Colombia	14,805	8,103	72,016	76,954
Other South America	61,444	99,106	672,619	698,771
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	132	158	2,181	3,433
Mexico	37,816	47,348	189,367	310,274
Santo Domingo	4,166	1,995	21,600	19,057
Cuba	15	3,824	866	21,014
Argentina	1,518	1,587	5,975	24,022
Brazil	3,485	31,391	159,432	119,596
Other South America	7,812	6,919	74,293	70,663
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	3,690	2,095	15,630	18,504
Mexico	18,436	19,319	86,395	155,429
Brazil	1,438	1,175	6,390	7,544
Other South America	728	379	3,378	4,694

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	$946	$1,365	$13,914	$11,982
Mexico	586	1,057	7,819	12,854
Santo Domingo	10	3	23	88
Cuba	721	274	2,574	10,005
Porto Rico		573		615
Argentina	250		505	1,119
Brazil	1,238	809	16,465	8,819
Colombia	73	485	3,340	3,665
Other South America	1,022	2,315	9,011	9,031
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	1,759	2,222	21,847	21,505
Mexico	6	55	190	573
Santo Domingo	1,023	503	2,920	3,797
Cuba	392	339	3,239	19,089
Porto Rico		78	20	793
Brazil	42	63	648	1,117
Colombia	856	1,506	8,458	10,675
Other South America	14,988	21,235	106,685	93,043
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	7,878	8,098	58,386	57,255
Mexico	3,509	5,613	11,868	20,005
Santo Domingo		1,568	15,936	13,070
Cuba			7,142	1,580
Porto Rico			176	319
Brazil	2,395	5,898	3,475	19,026
Colombia	1,258	1,167	6,398	12,152
Other South America	622	5,947	15,048	28,011
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	1,659	2,328	8,318	10,466
Mexico	1,042	2,005	6,049	11,622
Santo Domingo	263	283	1,586	1,387
Cuba	14,243	87,211	338,937	530,569
Porto Rico		3,429	18,872	47,369
Brazil	35,365	14,226	209,431	127,153
Colombia	63	412	657	1,484
Other South America	2,701	1,438	14,093	10,437
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	1,331	2,268	14,102	13,974
Mexico	1,990	3,584	15,457	18,477
Santo Domingo	1,018	280	4,841	4,525
Cuba	7,054	69,651	161,699	428,258
Porto Rico		3,353	11,378	9,611
Brazil		364	2,079	1,885
Colombia	1,071	1,289	8,280	11,212
Other South America	4,814	9,196	37,916	50,163
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	4,890	5,672	46,463	37,862
Santo Domingo	557	251	4,560	3,684
Cuba	2,055	6,996	8,634	35,293
Porto Rico		17,189	68,951	121,286
Brazil	380	1,056	1,988	2,880
Colombia	643	20,877	5,733	27,060
Other South America	17,128	233	129,580	110,970
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	10,372	14,619	109,308	102,627
Mexico	6,135	19,414	84,709	119,390
Santo Domingo	5,928	1,937	24,543	16,544
Cuba	28,425	155,007	547,609	1,078,740
Porto Rico		19,676	85,627	150,296
Argentina		162	2,761	2,904
Brazil	64,902	90,848	523,439	622,908
Colombia	7,555	7,794	60,157	72,241
Other South America	49,019	79,282	403,105	417,095

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	$24	$142	$1,091	$2,028
Mexico	54	101	823	479
Porto Rico		2,233		19,458
Colombia	615	464	5,560	7,440
Other South America	1,607	3,319	6,983	18,792
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Central America	3,529	4,113	27,857	27,197
Mexico	3,822	2,454	28,703	30,572
Santo Domingo	2,413	330	7,066	5,606
Cuba	584	4,266	3,803	78,329
Porto Rico		309	420	4,209
Brazil	6,464	23,169	64,174	127,808
Colombia	1,174	1,886	9,840	10,168
Other South America	8,983	21,954	60,297	106,325
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	1,362	1,279	10,202	10,168
Mexico	1,093	1,673	8,730	13,810
Santo Domingo	495	254	2,973	3,029
Cuba	570	3,877	13,096	46,397
Porto Rico		1,148	970	24,187
Brazil		17	75	209
Colombia	576	610	5,642	4,652
Other South America	836	1,866	9,891	7,799
Seeds (*Semillas; Sementes; Semence*):				
Central America	322	186	4,270	3,676
Mexico	769	615	23,931	10,589
Santo Domingo	25		351	259
Cuba		615	626	2,194
Porto Rico		75		558
Argentina		2	236	10,780
Brazil		72	445	584
Colombia	12	7	540	876
Other South America	128	311	1,425	1,670
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	963	3,123	23,729	12,489
Mexico	199	6,177	9,373	51,275
Santo Domingo	186	27	697	539
Colombia	1,414	965	12,367	10,331
Other South America	33	575	564	1,634
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	268	511	17,363	14,976
Mexico	8,371	16,593	73,596	82,991
Argentina			12,489	17,372
Colombia	651	342	5,708	4,106
Other South America	4,174	10,881	58,231	59,084
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué*):				
Central America	3,404	5,061	33,235	30,042
Mexico	2,488	437	22,575	13,698
Cuba	1,426	14,042	76,709	129,719
Argentina		70	910	3,563
Brazil			550	
Colombia	963	661	4,049	4,577
Other South America	8,428	6,666	49,378	45,887
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	7,271	1,122	21,485	18,507
Mexico	43,628	21,022	252,912	96,518
Cuba		7,315	12,683	34,623
Argentina	301	5,120	6,022	12,848
Brazil			75	240
Colombia	8,370	1,640	20,838	10,520
Other South America		22,928	20,353	35,260

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	July—		Seven months ending July—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construccion*):				
Central America	$3,066	$5,186	$19,913	$34,879
Mexico	64,780	76,538	472,400	548,235
Santo Domingo	2,922	316	20,713	23,444
Cuba	450	59,657	105,527	561,343
Porto Rico	.....	9,661	19,224	64,703
Argentina	68,570	118,893	524,823	590,650
Brazil	42,333	50,570	392,039	265,744
Colombia	7,882	1,949	31,645	30,559
Other South America	36,479	47,491	333,358	335,963
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	1,803	4,519	25,375	21,534
Mexico	11,238	27,046	88,901	169,365
Santo Domingo	1,201	156	6,545	6,181
Cuba	12	17,424	10,119	98,595
Porto Rico	.....	2,418	2,456	22,506
Argentina	1,659	5,489	24,673	51,989
Brazil	1,046	3,504	13,530	19,798
Colombia	1,346	2,038	15,831	19,756
Other South America	4,637	5,213	43,791	37,190

MINERAL RESOURCES IN 1898.

A summary of the mineral production of the United States for the calendar year 1898, being an extract from the Twentieth Annual Report of the Geological Survey, was made public on August 22, 1899. An examination of the statistics shows that since 1880 the total value of the mineral products of the country have increased nearly 90 per cent, or from $369,319,000 to $697,880,002.

The normal increase deduced from this record of nineteen years is at the rate of $18,000,000 annually, but during the five years since 1893 the rate of increase has been nearly $25,000,000 annually. While the normal rate of increase may lie somewhere between these figures, the totals are marked by great irregularities. From 1894 to 1895 the increase was nearly $100,000,000 and in the following year the increase was only a little over $1,000,000, while from 1892 to 1894 there was a decrease, owing to the business depression, of over $121,000,000. From 1896 to 1897 the increase was about $8,000,000 (about 1.3 per cent), while from 1897 to 1898 the increase was $66,970,534, or more than two and one-half times the average annual increase from 1893 to 1898, and a gain of nearly 11 per cent over the value of the product in 1897.

The 1898 total product was the largest in the country's history, exceeding that of 1892, which until then, held the record by nearly $50,000,000. This is due to a general increase all along the line of mineral products, all of the more important of these showing large increases, and almost every one showing some gain.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the figures obtained by the compilers of Volume VII of the "Mineral Industry," a book of several hundred pages, issued a short time prior to the Government report, substantially agree with the official statistics. Both show that

the United States was by far the largest producer of iron and steel in the world for 1898, and was second only to Great Britain in the production of coal; also furnishing more than one-half the total copper supply of the world. No other nation approaches the United States in the total value of its mineral production, which was $697,880,002 in 1898, against $630,909,468 in 1897.

The value of all metallic products in 1898 was $344,096,130, as compared with $302,198,502 in 1897, a gain of $41,897,628. All of the metals except nickel made large gains, copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, and antimony reaching their maximum in both production and value; but while the amount of pig iron produced in 1898 was greater than in any other year, yet the value of this product was considerably less than in 1890 or 1892, though it increased $21,434,701 over 1897, this being more than one-half the total increase in the metallic products from 1897 to 1898.

The nonmetallic products increased from $327,710,966 in 1897 to $352,783,872, a gain of $25,072,906. The largest contributor to the gain was bituminous coal, which increased from $119,567,224 in 1897 to $132,586,313 in 1898, a gain of $13,019,089. The value of the anthracite, however, fell off nearly $4,000,000, while the quantity increased 688,361 long tons. The other products showing important gains in value were stone, petroleum, natural gas, and mineral water.

The official figures of the production and value of the principal products were as follows:

Iron and steel: Pig iron, 11,773,934 long tons, as compared with 9,652,680 long tons in 1897. The average value increased from $9.85 in 1897 to $9.90 per ton in 1898; Bessemer steel ingots, 6,609,017 tons; increase, 1,133,702 tons; open-hearth steel, 2,230,290 long tons; increase, 621,621 tons—over 35 per cent; iron ores, 19,278,369 long tons, valued at $22,012,542, a gain of 1,760,323 long tons, and a gain in valuation of $3,059,321. The average price per ton of iron ore in 1898 was $1.14, as compared with $1.08 in 1897.

The production of gold continued on the increase and was valued at $64,463,000, the quantity being 3,118,398 troy ounces. The production in 1897 was 2,774,935 troy ounces, valued at $57,363,000. The silver product increased from 53,860,000 troy ounces, with a coinage value of $69,637,172 in 1897, to 54,438,000 troy ounces, with a coinage value of $70,384,485. The commercial value of the product, however, declined from $33,316,000 to $32,118,420, a loss of $197,580. The United States still remains the greatest silver producing country in the world, though it is closely followed by Mexico.

The production of copper increased from 494,078,274 pounds, valued at $54,080,180 in 1897, to 526,512,987 pounds, valued at $61,865,276 in 1898. The increase occurred chiefly in Arizona and Michigan, Montana showing a decrease. The average price per pound in 1898 was 11.75 cents; in 1897 it was 11 cents, and in 1896, 10.5 cents. This was the greatest quantity and the greatest total valuation ever recorded. The

actual scarcity of copper, with its accompanying rise in price and its enormous expansion of stock speculation, did not develop until the end of the year and had no appreciable effect on the returns. The great activity in the location of new copper mines is not apt to add materially to the product of 1899 because of the time required to open such properties and provide reduction plants.

The domestic production of lead in 1898 was 231,269 short tons, against 212,000 in the previous year. The value also increased from $14,885,728, in 1897, to $17,345,175. The major part of the increase was due to Colorado and Utah. There was a small increase in the production of Missouri. The output of Montana fell off about 2,000 tons. Besides the above, American smelters, in 1898, recovered 89,209 tons of lead from foreign ore and base bullion. The average price of lead at New York was 3.78 cents per pound, against 3.58 cents in 1897.

The production of zinc also increased to 115,399 tons of 2,000 pounds, valued at $10,385,910, from 99,980 tons, valued at $8,498,300, in 1897. This, too, is the largest product recorded in the country. The amount of the zinc ore exported was 11,782 short tons, valued at $299,870, against 9,251 tons, valued at $211,350, in 1897. Most of the ore exported was mined in the State of New Jersey, nearly all of the remainder of the output for 1898 being smelted from ores mined in the States of Missouri and Kansas.

The production of quicksilver, which showed a decline in 1897, shared the generally improved conditions of 1898, increasing from 26,648 flasks to 31,092 flasks. The value increased from $993,445 to $1,188,627. The value per flask in 1897 was $37.28; in 1898 it was $38.23. This product comes mainly from the State of California.

The production of aluminum was 5,200,000 pounds, valued at $1,716,000 in 1898, against 4,000,000 pounds, valued at $1,500,000 in 1897. The increase in the price of copper enabled aluminum to be substituted for this metal for many purposes.

The total output of metallic antimony in 1898 was 2,240,000 pounds, valued at $184,050, against 1,512,000 pounds, at a valuation of $109,655 in 1897. About 80 per cent of this was from foreign ores. The amount of antimony mined in the United States in 1898 was 697 short tons.

The production of manganese ore was the largest since 1891, but while showing an increase of about 44 per cent over 1897 (from 11,108 to 15,957 long tons), the output in 1898 was barely two-thirds of that for either of the years 1889, 1890, and 1891. The value of the product in 1898 was $129,185, against $95,505 in 1897.

The domestic production of nickel is insigficant as compared with the amount annually consumed, the market being chiefly supplied from Canada. The amount declined from 23,707 pounds in 1897 to 13,411 pounds in 1898. Most of the nickel produced in the country comes from the State of Minnesota. Refineries in the United States reported an output of 1,738,929 pounds of nickel, which includes both the domes-

tic and the imported ores. The average price in New York was 34.5 cents per pound in 1898, against 34.63 cents per pound in 1897.

The combined product of anthracite and bituminous coal in 1898 was 196,405,953 long tons, equivalent to 219,974,667 short tons, a 9½ per cent increase. Of the grand total, 148,742,878 long tons were bituminous. The actual increase in 1898 over 1897 was 17,636,609 long tons, or 19,753,002 short tons, almost exclusively of bituminous coal. The value of the product increased not quite 5 per cent in the year, or from $198,869,178 to $208,000,850.

For many years prior to 1898 the demand for bituminous coal was less than the supply, and operators had to contend with a surfeited market. These conditions were reversed in 1898, and instead of struggling to obtain new markets or to hold old ones the operators were for a great deal of the time unable to promptly fill their orders. This was because of the demand for fuel in the iron and steel and other industrial enterprises throughout the hot as well as the cold season. Demand for labor was so great in other industries that it was found difficult to secure enough laborers in the mines. Notwithstanding this, the average price per ton received for bituminous coal, at the mines, declined from 81 cents in 1897, to 80 cents in 1898, thus continuing the period of decline in coal prices which has extended from the year 1897. The cause assigned for the decline in 1898, is the increased use of labor-saving machinery.

Out of 30 States which contributed to the production there were 22 in 1898 which reported the largest output on record.

In the production of coke the year was also one of unprecedented activity. The increase over 1897 was 2,713,494 short tons, or from 13,288,984 to 16,047,209. This increase may be traced directly to the impetus given by the iron and steel industries.

The value of the production of crude petroleum increased $3,253,748 in the year, or from $40,929,611 in 1897 to $44,183,359 in 1898. While the product was worth more money, the number of barrels decreased from 60,568,081 to 55,354,233.

With the gradual exhaustion of the supply the production of natural gas continues to decrease in amount, but the value increased from $13,826,422 to $14,750,000 in 1898.

In structural materials the value of stone increased from $34,667,772 to $36,607,264; slate, from $780,112 to $1,370,075; clays, including pottery, from $62,359,991 to $71,597,380; Portland cement (with a gain of 1,014,509 barrels), from $4,315,891 to $5,970,773; natural rock cement declined from $3,862,392 to $3,810,728.

The value of abrasive materials, which includes millstones, grindstones, corundum and emery, oilstones, infusorial earth and garnet for abrasive purposes, increased from $744,222 to $1,075,046.

The chemical materials produced, including phosphate rock, gypsum, bromine, borax, fluorspar, sulphur, and iron pyrite for use in the manu-

facture of sulphuric acid amounted to $6,145,165 against $5,112,450 in 1897. The production of salt, which is included under this general heading, was the largest ever known, 17,612,634 barrels of 280 pounds each, as compared with 15,973,202 barrels in 1897. The increased product was accompanied by an advance of 15 per cent in prices, the total value increasing from $4,920,020 in 1897 to $6,212,554 in 1898. The producers received an average price per barrel of 35.3 cents.

The production of most of the pigments, including metallic paint, ocher, umber, and sienna, venetian red, zinc white, barytes, white and red lead, litharge, orange mineral, and cobalt oxide, declined, but owing to the great increase in the value of zinc white (from $1,750,000 to $2,310,000) the grand total shows an increase or a valuation in 1898 of $3,124,967, against $2,635,320 in 1897.

The value of the precious stones increased from $130,675 in 1897 to $160,920 in 1898. The principal features of the year were the finding of rock crystals in the State of California, which almost equal the Japanese, and the successful cutting of these, as large as 7 inches in diameter, in this country; the increased output of Montana sapphires, the continued output of the New Mexico turquoise mines, the finding of tourmalines in Maine and Connecticut, the large increase in imports of diamonds, and the increase in the diamond-cutting industry.

In 1897 the number of gallons of mineral waters sold was 23,255,911, valued at $4,559,106; in 1898 the sales amounted to 28,853,464 gallons, valued at $8,051,833. The per cent of increase in gallons was 24, while the increase in value was 75.07 per cent.

In miscellaneous products, which include fullers' earth, mica, feldspar, flint, asphaltum, asbestos, graphite, soapstone, magnesite, limestone for iron flux, bauxite, and monazite, the total valuation increased in a year from $3,565,116 to $4,105,898. The value of the asbestos imported into the United States (mostly from Canada) amounted to $300,533 against $268,264 in 1897.

The "Mineral Industry" reports the following new products: "Ferromolybdenum," 2,100 pounds, valued at 50 cents per pound; "molybdenum," 9,550 pounds, worth about $1.25 per pound. It also gives the amount of platinum produced as 300 troy ounces, against 200 troy ounces in 1897. The average value of bar platinum in New York was $12.79 per ounce, against $12.34 in 1897. The Geological Survey reports 150 troy ounces of crude platinum in 1897, valued at $900, and 225 troy ounces in 1898, valued at $1,913, or a little more than $8.50 per ounce, in a crude state, in the San Francisco market.

PAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The "Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance" of the United States for June, 1899, issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, contains an article on the commerce of the United States

with the American countries lying to the south of her borders, which commerce, it is here stated, has long been an object of solicitude to statesmen, economists, and business men.

As statistics will show, the commerce with the English-speaking people on the American continent to the north of the United States has grown rapidly and has been mutually satisfactory; with the people of another language, occupying contiguous territory to the south, the growth has been slower and less satisfactory, decreasing in value as the distance increases. To British North America the United States supplies 59 per cent of the total imports for consumption; to Mexico, equally adjacent, but speaking another language, 49 per cent; to the Central American States, next removed by distance but readily reached by water and now being tapped by railways, 37 per cent; Colombia, a little farther removed, but equally accessible by water transportation, 33 per cent; to Venezuela, equally accessible, 27 per cent; to the West Indies, 20 per cent; to British Guiana, 25 per cent; Dutch Guiana, 17 per cent, and less than 6 per cent to French Guiana. Up to this point the growth of the commerce between the United States and other American countries is fairly satisfactory, though it will be conceded that a larger share of trade might reasonably be expected from countries lying so near at hand, especially in view of the fact that purchases from them by the United States are much larger than the sales made by the United States to them.

But this somewhat unsatisfactory condition is gratifying when compared with the trade relations of the United States with the countries of South America bordering on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. In 1897 Brazil imported goods to the value of over $105,000,000, of which the United States supplied but about 12 per cent; Uruguay and Paraguay, $22,000,000, of which 7 per cent was from the United States; the Argentine Republic, $95,000,000, of which less than 7 per cent was from the United States. On the Pacific coast the imports of Chile were valued at $24,000,000; Peru, $8,500,000; Bolivia, $11,600,000, and Ecuador, $7,000,000, the proportion from the United States being but 10 per cent. Thus the northern coast of South America imports goods to the value of $36,000,000, of which the United States supplies 25 per cent; the eastern coast $222,000,000, and the western coast $51,000,000, the proportion from the United States on each coast being about 10 per cent.

An examination of the list of purchases made by the United States from Central and South American countries seems to increase the anomaly presented by the paucity of reciprocal purchases. The United States is by far the largest single customer, for Brazil and Mexico, of their leading articles of export—coffee and rubber. From the Argentine Republic and Chile its purchases are also large, and for South America in general the United States offers a constantly increasing market for its sugars, spices, fruits, dye and chemical woods, and other

tropical products. In the fiscal year 1897 the United States purchased from countries bordering on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans products valued at $88,408,119, while her sales to those countries for the same time were but $24,480,013. In 1898, despite the fact that to the whole world the United States supplied goods to double the amount of her purchases, the sales to the South American countries, other than those bordering on the Caribbean Sea, were still but about one-third of the amount of her purchases from them. To the Central American States and the Republics of Colombia and Venezuela bordering upon the Caribbean Sea, between whose ports and the United States there is comparatively frequent steamship service, the growth of exports has been fairly satisfactory, but to the remainder of the South American Continent the conditions grow more unsatisfactory each year.

With the idea of combating this state of affairs, the MONTHLY BULLETIN of the Bureau of American Republics has published, from time to time, articles calling to the attention of South American purchasers the preponderance of United States manufactures and products in European and other Continental markets with the further purpose of stimulating reciprocal trade in America. Details of the imports of the countries of South America indicate that the wants of the markets could readily be supplied by the United States were transportation facilities adequate. This suggests the advantages which might be expected to accrue to the United States, especially in regard to the trade with the western coast of South America, when an Isthmian Canal shall have been completed, full details and maps concerning which were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1897, pages 323–337. The contrast between the distances now traversed by the commerce of the Eastern and Southern sections of the United States with the western coasts of America, as has so frequently been pointed out by the Bureau of the American Republics, and those which would be made practicable by an Isthmian Canal, is as prominent as ever.

The fact that the Isthmus of Panama lies almost directly south of the Atlantic coast ports of the United States and that all commerce for the western coast of South America must now travel eastwardly a distance of 2,600 miles and again back to the west a like distance before reaching that coast, indicates in some degree the loss of distance and steam power which must be utilized in reaching the ports of sister Republics in contrast with that which will be practicable should a water route be opened across the isthmus at some point.

Aside from this, and notwithstanding the fact that existing transportation facilities are deemed inadequate, the volume of trade to and from the several other American Republics and the United States even now might be greatly increased by mutual tariff concessions, which would impair but slightly, if at all, the governmental revenues of the countries concerned.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

The Post-Office Department has adopted a new form of domestic money order, which was introduced September 4, 1899, and will gradually extend its use as supplies of the old form become exhausted at the various post-offices throughout the country. The new form is somewhat smaller than the order formerly legalized, its dimensions being about the same as those of the ordinary bank draft. It has two adjuncts; the advice or notification to be sent by the office of issue to the postmaster at the office upon which the order is drawn is a reproduction of the order through the use of carbonized paper (the manifold process), and a receipt for the amount to be furnished by the issuing postmaster to the remitter. On the back of the order space has been provided for the stamps of banks, through which, if necessary, it may pass for collection.

In shape and size the new money order is deemed a decided improvement over any other form hitherto designed by the Department. Its size being similar to that of a bank draft, it may be conveniently handled in conjunction with different kinds of commercial paper. The change made in this respect will be heartily approved by banks and business men generally.

The postal money-order system in the United States, from a small beginning in 1864, when the number of money-order post-offices established was 419, has grown to be one of the great indispensable agencies of exchange. There are now about 30,000 such offices. The number of domestic money orders issued during the past fiscal year was over 30,000,000, amounting in value to $210,000,000. The system is used most extensively for remittances to and from places where bank exchange is not readily obtainable. While supplementing facilities for intercourse between populous centers it has its own special field, supplying means for the safe and cheap transmission of money where other agencies for the purpose could not be successfully maintained.

The first parcels-post convention between the United States and a European country is now substantially a fact. Postmaster-General SMITH and the special German Envoy, Dr. MUMM VON SCHWARZENSTEIN, on August 26 signed such a convention between the United States and Germany. It will go into operation on October 1, and will begin a postal service by means of which articles of merchandise may be exchanged by mail, provided they are put up in packages which do not weigh more than 11 pounds. The postage rate for parcels going from the United States to Germany is fixed at 12 cents for each pound or fraction of a pound. The rate in Germany on parcels for the United States will be 2 marks 40 pfennigs a parcel, whatever its weight, but a reduced rate of 1 mark 60 pfennigs may be adopted for a parcel not exceeding in weight 1 kilogram, equivalent to 2 pounds 3 ounces. Provision is made for customs declaration and payment. This convention has been a subject of negotiation and consideration at different times since 1885.

DEPOSITORIES FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

On August 24 the War Department of the United States promulgated the following decision concerning "Circulars Nos. 28 and 30," Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, dated August 5 and 24, respectively; there was seemingly an impression prevailing that the banks named in the circulars were depositories of funds belonging to the United States instead of for funds held in trust for the inhabitants of the islands:

"The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation have been designated as depositories of the War Department by departmental orders of August 5 and 15, 1899, respectively. Such designation authorizes officers of the military government now in charge of civil affairs in the Philippine Islands to deposit to the credit of themselves, as such officers and subject to their own orders, at the banking houses of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Manila, and the branch banks of said companies in other cities of the Philippine Islands, the moneys now in the custody of said officers received or hereafter arising from the customs receipts, taxes, or other revenues of said Philippine Islands. Such funds or moneys do not belong to the United States, but are held in trust by the United States for the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, the discharge of which said trust devolves upon the War Department.

"The designation before referred to did not create the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, nor any of their branches a United States depository or designated place of deposit for funds belonging to the United States.

"Officers of the War Department having in charge moneys belonging to the United States are prohibited by law from depositing said moneys with other than the United States Treasury, subtreasuries of the United States, or some place designated as a depository by the Secretary of the Treasury.

"By section 3620, Revised Statutes, it is provided that—

"'In places where there is no Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, the Secretary of the Treasury may, when he deems it essential to the public interest, specially authorize, in writing, the deposit of such public money in any other public depository, or, in writing, authorize the same to be kept in any other manner, and under such rules and regulations as he may deem most safe and effectual to facilitate the payment to public creditors.'

"Such authority has not been given by the Secretary of the Treasury in the instance of disbursing officers in the Philippine Islands charged with funds belonging to the United States.

"Officers in the Philippine Islands having in their possession funds belonging to the United States which they are required to cover into the Treasury of the United States must remit the same to the Treasury

or a subtreasury by draft, at the risk of said officer, the actual cost of exchange being borne by the United States, such expense being considered an abatement of the fund in his hands."

PROSPERITY OF HAWAII.

The first year of United States rule in the Hawaiian Islands was prosperous, as is shown by the Government receipts and expenditures, and the account of the customs receipts for the last six months of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899. The statistics were received by the Department of State and transmitted to the Treasury Department on August 25. These show that the receipts during the month of July, 1899, were $207,215, as against $184,798 in the month of July, 1898. The expenditures for the same month in 1899 were $172,381, as against $234,909 in July, 1898. There is thus a decrease in expenditures and an increase in receipts. The expenditures, however, were raised to a total of $212,272 on account of a loan fund, as against a grand total of $261,278 in July, 1898. The total insular debt is now $4,635,199, as against $4,449,617 a year ago.

RICHARD IVES, Collector-General of Customs of the islands, reported that the customs receipts at all ports in June last were: From the United States, imports, $1,412,658; from other countries, $384,494. This is an increase of almost 100 per cent over the receipts of June, 1896, when the corresponding figures were, respectively, $599,303 and $283,995. The total collections during the first six months of 1899 were $8,330,294, as against $4,714,143 for the first six months of 1898.

RECIPROCITY TREATIES NOT APPLICABLE TO COLONIES.

The Board of Classification of the United States General Appraisers, in a decision rendered during the last week of August, 1899, says, in effect, that unless specifically mentioned, the colonial possessions of countries which have reciprocity treaties with the United States are not entitled to such benefits. The case in which the opinion was rendered involved the question of the duty to be charged on an importation of rum from Martinique. The Collector assessed the regular duty and the importer protested, claiming that the importation was entitled to admission at a reduced rate under the reciprocity agreement with France. The Board held that inasmuch as the reciprocity agreement in question does not refer to the French colonies, but only covers the "products of France," the specific inclusion of the one must be interpreted as intending to exclude the other. The colonies of France, therefore, do not benefit by the agreement. The Board believes that this construction of the law is rendered the more reasonable by the present policy of so many countries in extending their colonial possessions to such distant parts of the world and of permitting the colonists to enact local laws which prevail in such acquired territory.

COFFEE SUPPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

The Subsistence Department of the United States Army has decided upon a measure of relief for the suffering inhabitants of the island of Puerto Rico, which, without being regarded as charity, will do much to assist a deserving people. It is announced that orders have been issued from the office of the Commissary-General to commissary officers throughout the United States to purchase Puerto Rican coffee for the use of the military forces of the whole country. In this way a large part of the product will be utilized and the money paid for it will go to the island. Since the conclusion of the war between the United States and Spain the Puerto Rican planters have been restricted in their coffee market, as Spain, prior to that time, always took the greater part of the crop. The recent violent hurricane destroyed much of the growing coffee and a considerable portion of the stored product, but there is said to be enough on hand to net the producers a considerable amount of money.

THE LOWEST PRICE FOR COFFEE.

The lowest price on record to that date for "future" coffee was recorded September 7, 1899, when coffee deliverable in October sold on the New York Coffee Exchange at 4.40 cents per pound. The previous low price was 4.55 cents per pound in June for coffee deliverable in July. The highest price in seventeen years was 22.25 cents per pound in June, 1887, for coffee to be delivered the following December. The cash price for Brazilian coffee on the 7th of September was 5.625 cents per pound, or one-eighth cent below any previous price. The low prices now current are due to the enormous world's supply and the expectation that the new crop will more than reach 11,000,000 bags. The increase in the world's supply in August was 890,500 bags, the greatest increase ever reported for a single month. The world's visible supply of coffee on September 1, 1899, was 7,659,500 bags of 132 pounds each.

THE PHILIPPINE REVENUES.

On August 26, 1899, the War Department of the United States gave to the public a statement of the receipts of the Philippine Islands from the date of occupation by the United States Government to July 31, 1899. This shows that the total receipts from all sources were $5,249,411. These were divided among the following-named ports: Manila, $3,848,248; Iloilo, $265,360; Cebu, $156,136.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

During the last week in August the shipments of merchandise from the port of New York for Hawaii were valued at $94,586. Among the items were steam pumps, $10,000; hardware, $7,000; railroad material, $6,000; iron pipe, $5,000, and rope, $5,000.

The United States Patent Office, on August 25, 1899, issued letters patent to ALFRED MOLET, of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, for an acetylene gas generator, and to EDWARD B. SAILSBURY, of Caracas, Venezuela, for a crank-pin-turning machine, and on September 5, 1899, to SEEHO J. COYIM, of Chihuahua, Mexico, for a seeder.

The British steamer *Puritan* sailed from Philadelphia on August 12 with the largest cargo ever taken from any port in the United States. It consisted of 40 Baldwin locomotives and tenders and 18 steel bridges for the Chinese Eastern Railway, in addition to several tons of miscellaneous merchandise of United States manufacture.

The domestic beet-sugar production for the season of 1899–1900 is estimated by a recognized New York authority on sugar at 119,000 tons. In this estimate the State of California is credited with 53,000 tons; Michigan, 31,500; Nebraska, 9,000; Utah, 7,500; New York, 3,000, smaller quantities from other States making up the balance.

The President has recognized the following consular officers: CASSIUS A. GREEN, Consul of Ecuador at Philadelphia; JUAN M. ASTORGA PEREIRA, Consul of Chile in California; BERTHOLD SINGER, Consul of Costa Rica at Chicago; HENRY C. POTTER, Vice-Consul of Costa Rica at Philadelphia; WENCESLAO BORDA, Consul of Colombia at San Juan, Puerto Rico; RAFAEL G. ACOSTO, Consul of Mexico at Kansas City, Missouri; RAFAEL P. SERRANO, Consul of Mexico at St. Louis, Missouri; JOSE V. DOSAL, Consul of Mexico at Baltimore.

The sugar-cane crop of Hawaii for the present year is about all harvested and the sugar is being shipped to the United States. It has been a favorable season for plantation work and the crop will exceed that of 1898 by from 25,000 to 30,000 tons. It is reported that 19 vessels, having an aggregate capacity of 53,000 tons, have been chartered to bring the sugar from the Hawaiian Islands to the refineries in New York and Philadelphia. The great bulk of the crop, however, will go to San Francisco, where it will be refined.

Three of the largest merchant steamships of the world are now under construction or have been contracted for in the United States. The *California*, which the Union Iron Works of San Francisco will build, is to be 450 feet long and 51 feet broad, having a displacement of 12,000 tons, and a carrying capacity of 8,250 tons. This vessel will be for the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company. The other two vessels will be constructed for the Pacific Mail Line, at Newport News, Va. Each of these ships will be 550 feet in length, and of 18,500 tons burden.

URUGUAY.

VALUE OF THE TRADE WITH GERMANY.

Writing to the Department of State at Washington, under date of June 22, 1899, Mr. JAMES C. MONAGHAN, United States Consul at Chemnitz, Germany, says that the newspapers of Germany announce that Uruguay and Germany have agreed to continue trading on the basis of the commercial and shipping treaty adopted June 20, 1892. Under this agreement each of the governments is guaranteed the same rights as the most favored nation. The Consul adds, however, that Germany yields all claims to participation in the special concessions to citizens and goods of Brazil, Argentine, and Paraguay.

In the Consul's report the following trade statistics are given: In 1897 Germany took from Uruguay imports worth $2,570,000. Of these $1,569,134 were for extracts of meat, on which there were no tariff concessions. Skins and sheep's wool imports amounted to $688,296. Germany's exports to Uruguay in the same year were valued at $1,321,852. They did not suffer from differential duties, Uruguay having no tariff treaties with other countries. Up to date Uruguay has done nothing to speak of in the way of manufactures; only agriculture has been developed. Textiles are among the most important classes of imports. The people that can send wares cheap, good, and suitable to Uruguay's needs will win the markets of that country.

VITICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC.

The June number of the "Anales del Departamento de Ganaderia y Agricultura" of Uruguay, under the caption "Un proyecto importante para la viticultura nacional" (An important project for domestic viticulture), contains interesting data regarding experiments which have been made in the premises and urges the necessity of establishing experimental agricultural stations in certain parts of the Republic for the proper instruction of the youth of the land in the cultivation of the vine and the spread of the knowledge of viticulture in the country.

The article states that the history of domestic viticulture is very short; that in 1874 there was but 1 vineyard in the Republic; 34 ten years later; 655 in 1894, and 824 at the time the census was taken in 1897. These 824 vineyards occupy an area of 3,610 hectares, with 11,000,000 vines in bearing. They employ permanently 3,000 hands at good salaries, and many thousands more at the grape gathering, pruning, and planting seasons.

There exists 141 special storehouses, and viticulture represents an important branch of the public wealth, which is estimated at 5,000,000 pesos. All this wealth, which shows the intelligent efforts and heavy capital invested in the promotion of so important a branch of

agriculture, is in danger of disappearing totally through the visitation of the dreaded phylloxera, unless the Government comes to its aid. In this situation, and appreciating the fact that many of the viticulturists are not in a financial position to ward off the inroads of this devastating insect and preserve their vineyards from total extinction, Señor Don DIEGO PONS, a Representative from Tacuarembó, recently introduced in the House of Representatives a bill appropriating the sum of 5,000 pesos for the establishment in the "Toledo Agricultural Station" of a nursery of American vines, a practical school for grafting and an experimental field for viticulture, and a further sum of 3,000 pesos per annum for the maintenance thereof. The Executive power is authorized to take steps, through the Ministry of Foreign Relations, to have brought from France an eminent professor of viticulture, who shall study the status of the domestic viticulture and determine the measures which should be adopted to revive the Uruguayan vineyards.

PROPOSED PORTUGUESE EXHIBITION.

Writing from Montevideo, under date of July 11, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, United States Minister, sends to the Department of State at Washington a translation of an editorial in a local paper discussing prospective reciprocal treaties between Portugal and Uruguay, Paraguay, and the Argentine Republic. As a means of expanding Portuguese trade, it appears that a movement is now being agitated to establish an annual exhibition of Portuguese products at a convenient point on the River Plate.

NEW WHARF AT PLAYA HONDA.

A concession has been granted to Messrs. ROWLEY, SOLSONA & CO., for the building of a wharf for the shipment of live stock in the district known as Playa Honda. This is to consist mainly of a mole starting from the shore and carried out to the necessary depth with requisite anchors, to provide smooth water; sufficient depth to enable vessels to come inside; the necessary moorings, buoys, and lights; adequate pens for the separation of cattle, which are to be provided with all necessary appliances for their comfort, as well as bridges and slings of the most modern character for the loading of animals. Concession is also granted for building a branch railway without State guaranty, exclusively for the service of the wharf and connecting with existing railways. At the close of thirty years all these improvements are to pass to the State without indemnity.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES, FIRST HALF OF 1899.

The Bureau is informed by Señor Don PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of Uruguay, that the value of imports by the United States from that country for the first six months of 1899 was

$1,198,585.28. For the same period of last year it was $1,323,650.80, showing a decrease for the first-named period of $125,065.52. During the last six months of 1898 the United States imports from Uruguay only reached a value of $593,646.73, showing an increase during the first six months of 1899 of $604,938.52. The exports from the United States to Uruguay for the first six months of 1899 were valued at $628,202.42, which gives a balance of imports over exports of $570,382.86. There was not a foot of lumber or rosin shipped from Southern ports during the first six months of 1899, and not a bale of wool was imported from January 1 to July 1 of this year. Only 9 bales were imported during the first half year of 1898.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH has forwarded to the Department of State of the United States the text of the new bills relative to the scheme for the improvement of the port of Montevideo, prepared by the Minister of Fomento, Dr. C. M. PENA, and his predecessor, Senhor J. A. VARELA. These bills, two in number, are still subject to the decision of Congress, which will, no doubt, agree to definite plans.

An agreement relative to a commercial treaty between Uruguay and Great Britain has been signed in Montevideo by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the British Minister. This is, in reality, a renewal of the treaty of commerce and navigation concluded between these countries in 1885.

VENEZUELA.

IMPORTS FROM NEW YORK IN JULY, 1899.

According to the report of Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, Consul-General for Venezuela in the city of New York, the shipments from that port to the various ports of entry in Venezuela during the month of July, 1899, showed a great increase as compared with the same month in 1898. In 1899 the total value of the goods purchased for the Venezuelan trade was $373,701, and in addition $90,000 in gold coin was sent to La Guaira. In July, 1898, the total value of the imports from New York was only $161,459, or an increase of over $300,000 for July, 1899. Among the principal articles imported were flour valued at $61,684; lard, $70,683; butter, $32,003; groceries, $31,721; cotton cloths, bleached and unbleached, $21,564; cotton print cloths (calicoes), $15,978; notions, $20,554; drugs and perfumery, $24,488; machinery, $21,783; rope and cordage, $12,487; barbed wire, $6,334. Señor ZUMETA, Secretary to the Consul-General, expressed his gratification at the state of trade, but added that he anticipated a further increase in August, when the full returns were available. The demand for flour from the United States is increasing, 21,714 barrels being taken in July.

Barbed wire has always figured prominently in the Venezuelan reports, for the reason that new lands are rapidly being cleared by farmers, who are preparing to operate on an extensive scale, and the wire makes the only secure fence. The exports of machinery were not very heavy, but it is stated that firms in the United States have recently received large orders from firms in Venezuela which include electrical appliances, engines, ice machinery, and cars to be shipped within the next few months.

The value of the imports from New York for July at each of the Venezuelan ports of entry were: La Guaira—merchandise, $169,078, increase, $84,224; gold coin (also an increase), $90,000—$259,078, increase, $174,224; Maracaibo, $66,840, increase, $41,923; Ciudad Bolivar, $61,546, increase, $50,895; Puerto Cabello, $45,975, increase, $23,330; Carúpano, $12,678, increase, $9,699; La Vela, $9,320, decrease (the only one), $3,524; Guanta, $3,728, increase, $2,713; Caño Colorado, $2,601, increase, $2,065; Cumaná, $1,935, increase, $915.

NEW SYNDICATE FOR DEVELOPING MINERAL RESOURCES.

The "Exploration Syndicate, of New York City," has practically completed details for the absorption of the Orinoco Company, which is an organization, with a capital of $30,000,000, formed for the purpose of developing rich natural resources in Venezuela. The Exploration Syndicate will also take over the control of several subsidiary companies heretofore operated by the Orinoco Company. The syndicate, as officially announced, will purchase $16,000,000 of the company's stock, which will place it in control, its representatives being immediately placed on the directorate of the Orinoco Company, Limited. There will be no change in the names of either company, the policy adopted by the concessionnaires will be maintained, and the operations of the company will be considerably extended. The Orinoco Company, Limited, was formed in 1883 for the purpose of developing resources in Venezuela.

One of the subcompanies formed was the Orinoco Iron Company, which in a prospectus lately issued states that close to the Santa Catalina River it owns a hill of unusually pure Bessemer iron ore, containing, on a low estimate, 1,080,000,000 tons of ore. The company received its concession from the Orinoco Company on the conditions that not more than 3,000,000 tons should be mined annually, for which they paid a royalty of $200,000 a year. Before the Exploration Syndicate negotiated the deal experts were sent to Venezuela to determine whether the concessions of the Orinoco Company were as valuable as represented. In the reports published in the prospectus details are given of the valuable lumber and forest products, some of which are the Balata lignum-vitæ, Mora cedar and purple. It is stated that a contract has been made with the Mexican Central Railway to furnish it with 325,000 railroad ties and an English road with 520,000 ties. As soon as all the details of the consolidation are effected $1,000,000 will

be placed in the treasury of the company to commence operations. The mining departments will receive attention and machinery will be sent to the camps as soon as possible.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES.

The Venezuelan Congress has adopted a decree relative to the registry of corporations foreign to the Republic, of which the following is a translation:

"ARTICLE 1. Foreign companies desirous of establishing agencies or branches in Venezuela, whether they have any exploitation in the country or not, if they consist of a number of partners or of a single person, must comply with all the conditions established for national companies, and if they are companies of shareholders they must register in the commercial register and in the registry office of the place where the working agency is, and they will publish in a local newspaper the contract of partnership and the other necessary documents for the formation of the company, according to the laws of its nationality, as also a duly legalized copy of the articles relative to those laws.

"They will, moreover, send the statutes of the company to the registry to be recorded in its archives."

NOTE 1.—Foreign companies established in Venezuela will be governed by the rules contained in article 26 of the Civil Code and by articles 101, 102, 103, and 104 of the Code of the Civil Law.

NOTE 2.—All modifications in the contract of partnership must be registered and published, as laid down in the first part of this article.

"ARTICLE II. Insurance companies wishing to do business in Venezuela must have at least a responsible agency in the capital of the Republic, and those of life assurance will give a real guaranty equal to the total amount of the policies issued in the country. For the effect of this guaranty the agency will send half yearly to the Ministry of Industry, Agriculture, and Commerce a detailed statement of those who get insured and the amount of the policies. The guaranty will be registered in the lower registry office of the district in which the agency exists.

"ARTICLE III. The nonobservance of the rules established in Articles I and II on the part of the companies to which they refer causes the managers, agents, and representatives who act in their name to be personally responsible for all the obligations incurred in the country. Those who may make contracts in the name of insurance companies without having fulfilled the prescriptions in Article II will suffer an additional fine of one to a thousand bolivars, or proportionate arrest.

"ARTICLE IV. Foreign companies having at present in Venezuela agencies, branches, or works will fulfill the terms of Article I within six months of the publication of this law. The insurance companies must within the same period submit to the decisions in Article II."

DUTIES ON TOBACCO.

Mr. W. W. RUSSELL, Secretary of the United States Legation at Caracas, under date of July 22, 1899, informed the Department of State, at Washington, that on July 21 the duties on tobacco were increased, so that the tariff rates are now as follows:

(1) Cigarette paper, cut or uncut, 24 bolivars ($4.63) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), net weight.

(2) Tobacco made into cigarettes with any wrapper whatever, 7.50 bolivars ($1.44) per kilogram, net weight.

(3) Twisted tobacco or any kind of chewing tobacco, 5 bolivars (96 cents) per kilogram, net weight.

(4) Tobacco worked up or prepared in any form not otherwise specified, 5 bolivars (96 cents) per kilogram, net weight.

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, Venezuela imported from the United States "tobacco and manufactures of" to the value of $87,486; in 1898, the imports of the same article were valued at $77,080.

NEW MINISTER FROM NICARAGUA.

On September 11, 1899, Señor Don LUIS F. COREA was officially received by President MCKINLEY as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua near the Government of the United States. Señor COREA has represented his country at Washington as Chargé d'Affaires, and his promotion to the high post which he now fills is looked upon as a just recognition of the notable services he has rendered his country. The new Minister is one of the youngest members of the diplomatic corps at Washington, being scarcely 35 years of age. During his short but distinguished public career he has filled many important positions not only in Nicaragua, but also in Guatemala, where he lived for many years. He studied law in the famous university of the city of Guatemala, and to-day ranks as one of the foremost lawyers of Central America. Señor COREA has also been appointed diplomatic representative of his country near the Government of Chile, and in due time will go to Santiago, capital of that Republic, to present his credentials.

On being received the following addresses were made:

ADDRESS OF SEÑOR COREA.

"Mr. PRESIDENT: It is most satisfactory and gratifying for me to place in the hands of Your Excellency the letter which accredits me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua near the Government of the United States of America.

"My Government, in elevating its representation in Washington to the highest grade which Nicaragua has established in its diplomatic corps, has desired to demonstrate the fraternal sentiments which it

feels toward this country, and at the same time to maintain and draw closer, if possible, the ties of friendship which from of old have united the two Republics.

"I am confident that the Government of Your Excellency is animated by the same sentiments, and that it will facilitate the discharge of the mission which has been intrusted to me and will redound to the benefit of both countries, especially on the day—which, I trust, may not be far distant—in which, by this unity of purpose, new avenues may be opened to commerce, which is the foundation of the prosperity of nations.

"To cooperate in the realization of so praiseworthy an object and to merit in the discharge of my high office the consideration which the Government of Your Excellency has been pleased to extend to me in my character as Charge d'Affaires, are my greatest desires, and to their accomplishment I shall lend all my efforts.

"Permit me, Mr. President, in concluding, to extend to Your Excellency the sincere good wishes of the Government and people of Nicaragua for the prosperity and well being of the United States and for the personal happiness of Your Excellency—wishes in which I join with the enthusiasm inspired by the liberal institutions of this great people and the wise administration of their Government."

REPLY OF PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.

"Mr. MINISTER: I am gratified to receive from your hands the letter whereby the President of Nicaragua accredits you as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that Republic to the Government of the United States.

"The close relations of the Government and people of the United States to their neighbors of the Western Hemisphere, and the desire we have always cherished of establishing between ourselves and them mutual confidence, sincere friendship, and beneficial commerce, have led the United States to maintain missions of the plenipotentiary grade at the several Latin-American capitals and to welcome the reciprocal establishment of like high missions at this capital.

"In receiving you in your advanced capacity, permit me to state that I am glad this signal promotion has come to one who has already by long residence among our people and honorable intercourse with this Government acquired a knowledge of the mutual interests and aims of the two countries, and won, besides, the friendship and regard alike of the officers of this Government and of my countrymen.

"I therefore accept with satisfaction your assurance that it will be your intention and purpose to cooperate in the realization of the high ends of amity and good will which inspire both the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua.

"Wishing for you, Mr. Minister, all personal success, I ask you to convey to your President and to the people of Nicaragua my good wishes and those of my fellow-citizens for their happiness, welfare, and continued advancement in the paths of peace."

GREAT BRITAIN'S ALL-AMERICAN TRADE.

From the "Accounts Relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom" for July, 1899, the statistics of the trade of Great Britain with the several American Republics, as well as its own possessions on the Western Continent and adjacent islands, for the first six months of 1899, are taken. In the tables which make up these "accounts" imports are generally classified as received from the countries whence they were shipped direct to the United Kingdom. In the majority of cases the country of shipment is also the country of origin; but in countries having no seaboard, Bolivia, for instance, this has not been found practicable. The exports are, as a rule, credited to the country of ultimate destination (again Bolivia is an exception) as declared by the exporters in their entries. The divisions as to the eastern and western coasts of the several countries are as reported by the British statisticians. For the purpose of comparison, the totals for the first six months of 1898 are also given.

Country.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTS.		
United States:		
Atlantic coast	£61, 995, 214	£65, 467, 818
Pacific coast	2, 076, 343	3, 261, 296
Total	64, 071, 557	68, 729, 114
Cuba and Porto Rico	15, 188	17, 192
Canada:		
Atlantic coast	4, 783, 968	4, 478, 780
Pacific coast	368, 071	612, 891
Newfoundland and Labrador	100, 515	70, 986
Bermuda	866	766
West Indies:		
British	1, 039, 496	904, 088
French	216	63
Dutch	11, 003	13, 974
Danish	93	8, 836
Haiti and Santo Domingo	36, 698	53, 444
Mexico	227, 801	147, 755
Guatemala	133, 920	270, 692
Honduras	900	4, 965
British Honduras (Belize)	82, 360	95, 911
Salvador	70, 711	184. 397
Nicaragua	23, 686	58, 315
Costa Rica	254, 273	543, 163
Colombia	457, 373	388, 801
Venezuela	22, 809	19, 648
Guiana:		
British	193, 452	303, 257
Dutch	24, 414	19, 251
Ecuador	58, 561	100, 579
Peru	640, 990	733, 170
Chile (including Pacific coast of Patagonia)	2, 244, 215	1, 990, 060
Brazil	2, 157, 548	2, 362, 705
Uruguay	155, 038	165, 427
Argentine Republic (including Atlantic coast of Patagonia)	5, 365, 232	4, 854, 019
Falkland Islands	101, 281	109, 670
Total all America	82, 642, 235	87, 241, 919
EXPORTS.		
United States:		
Atlantic coast	7, 787, 687	7, 236, 041
Pacific coast	225, 752	202, 914
Cuba and Porto Rico	463, 526	119, 423
Canada:		
Atlantic coast	2, 925, 889	2, 591, 935
Pacific coast	154, 285	162, 179
Newfoundland and Labrador	164, 637	137, 219
Bermuda	45, 476	48, 898

Country.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTS—continued.		
West Indies:		
British	£875,833	£903,775
French	49,182	36,948
Dutch	15,009	13,167
Danish	16,487	25,312
Haiti and Santo Domingo	130,267	74,921
Mexico	934,983	822,060
Guatemala	21,434	10,855
Honduras	76,482	41,737
British Honduras (Belize)	22,966	29,694
Salvador	76,482	41,737
Nicaragua	58,832	38,183
Costa Rica	47,586	54,195
Colombia	361,518	374,301
Venezuela	360,619	186,040
Guiana:		
British	261,237	284,142
French	1,202	936
Dutch	18,423	21,110
Ecuador	176,111	159,236
Peru	409,161	384,078
Chile (including west coast of Patagonia)	844,895	821,780
Brazil	2,523,457	2,774,085
Uruguay	618,258	542,187
Paraguay	4,749	4,522
Argentina (including east coast of Patagonia)	2,849,701	2,435,871
Falkland Islands	12,231	9,549
Total all America	2,534,357	20,589,030

BOOK NOTICES.

The initial number of "Feilden's Magazine," a new British publication, appeared on August 1. This is a monthly magazine, "militantly British," issued from Temple Chambers, London, and, according to its subtitle, is "the world's record of industrial progress." In explaining the reasons for the existence of such a periodical, the publisher says "that the efficiency of a nation's trade and technical publications is largely correlative to its success has never been better demonstrated than in the case of the United States, where indisputably high-class industrial literature has been the accompaniment of and an overwhelming factor in the phenomenal advance of that country's business." The leading article is by Sir W. H. PREECE, K. C. B., F. R. S., and is a résumé of the meeting and papers of the engineering conference recently held in London. In summing up his review of the work of this organization the writer says:

"If this conference has done no other good, it has done this: it has made our engineers alive to the danger of foreign competition and to the fact that we can no longer pride ourselves on our commercial and industrial supremacy. We are a foolish and conceited nation and blind to our own deficiencies; Germany is far—generations—in advance of us in education and America is equally in advance of us in labor-saving machinery, standardization of patterns, workshop management, and manufacturing methods. * * * The working man (in England) must become, as he is in the United States, a reading, thinking, technical member, who takes a pride in his own work and a patriotic delight in the advance of his nation."

In July, 1899, the Adjutant-General's Office of the War Department of the United States issued a very interesting volume which throws much light on the geography and climatic conditions of Alaska, about which, until within the last few years, so little was known. The book, as its title indicates, contains the "Reports of Explorations in the Territory of Alaska (Cooks Inlet, Sushitna, Copper, and Tanana Rivers), 1898," made under the direction of the Secretary of War, by Capt. EDWIN F. GLENN, Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, and Capt. W. R. ABERCROMBIE, Second United States Infantry. The reports of the principal officers are supplemented by the observations of Lieuts. H. G. LEARNARD, Fourteenth United States Infantry; J. C. CASTNER, Fourth United States Infantry; P. G. LOWE, Eighteenth United States Infantry; R. M. BROOKFIELD, Second United States Infantry; GUY H. PRESTON, Ninth United States Cavalry; Sergeants WILLIAM YANERT, Troop K, United States Cavalry, and FREDERICK H. MATHYS, Fourteenth United States Infantry; Corporals ROBERT HEIDEN, Company F, Fourteenth United States Infantry, and ROBERT A. KOEHLER, Company B, Fourteenth United States Infantry; Quartermaster Agent CHARLES BROWN, Hospital Steward JOHN W. CLEAVE, Guides JOHN S. BAGG and J. J. RAFFERTY, and Mr. LUTHER S. KELLY. All of these reports are on different parts of the country or regarding different features of the expedition. A table of meteorological observations taken at Port Valdez from April 19, 1898, to January 18, 1899, is incorporated with the reports, and a detached comprehensive map—scale, 1 inch to 12½ miles—accompanies the volume.

The "Exporters and Importers Journal," for August 5, 1899, contains an article entitled "President Porfirio Diaz and Modern Mexico," embellished with an excellent portrait of the President. After a rapid sketch of the early history of the country, which is followed by a concise story of the President's career, the writer calls attention to the almost phenominal progress of the Republic under its present government, concluding with this significant paragraph:

"With an admirable legal code, strictly and honestly enforced, an excellent system of jurisprudence, and a high standard established for official ability and integrity, life and property are alike protected, and, under present conditions, with her wonderful resources as yet practically untouched, her industries showing every prospect of vigorous development, and free as she is from the dangers of entangling foreign alliances, the future prosperity of Mexico appears to be reasonably assured."

With the first volume of the fiscal year 1899–1900, the "Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance," prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, information which would seem to be of especial interest to the producers, manufacturers, and exporters of the United States is transferred to the opening pages. This is the arrangement which will be followed in the future, with the belief that it will render the work more useful and more accessible to all.

The tables, which are each month consulted by those most interested, are placed last. These tables are grouped in this manner: I. Financial; II. Prices; III. Foreign Commerce.

The British "Board of Trade Journal" for July, 1899, contains a summary of "The Trade, Industry and Shipping of Mexico" collated principally from the various reports of the diplomatic and consular officers representing the United Kingdom in that Republic. References have, however, been made to the reports of the Consuls and Commercial Agents of the United States to the Government at Washington. The statistics (mainly of 1896 and 1897) with which the article abounds are, in many instances, taken from the official returns of the Mexican Government. The map which accompanies the text shows the boundaries of the several States, the locations of the principal cities, and the routes of all the railways.

The Scientific Publishing Company, of New York and London, has recently issued a volume entitled "The Mineral Industry; Its Statistics, Technology, and Trade in the United States and Other Countries to the End of 1898." This work, which is edited by Mr. R. P. BOTHWELL, contains 940 pages and is finely illustrated. It is the seventh volume in the series, the first having been published in 1893, containing statistics for 1892 and preceding years, giving also a general résumé of the industry from its inception. Volume VII brings the record down to the close of 1898, both in the matter of statistics and from a technical and industrial point of view.

Hon. HORACE D. WASDEN, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor of the State of Massachusetts, has compiled for the "Statistics of Manufacture, 1898," a monograph on the textile industry. This gives a historical review of the establishment of manufactories in the State of Massachusetts from the year 1643 up to the close of the year 1898, together with a statement of the cotton crop of the country from 1791 to 1898, also the quantity exported and consumed during each year of this period. The industrial chronology is also very valuable, and the work throughout evinces the greatest skill and care in compilation.

One of the series of fifty-two practical manuals issued at 23 Rue Visconti, Paris, France, bears the title "Manual de Labores de Minas y Beneficio de Metales." Beginning with a treatise on geology, so far as it relates to the mining industry, other chapters treat of prospecting, the working of mines, metallurgy, and assaying. The mining codes of Mexico, Chile, Peru, and the Argentine Republic are contained in appendices.

The "Bankers' Monthly" for the month of August, 1899, contains an article on the "Use of gold coin," by Hon. ELLIS H. ROBERTS, Treasurer of the United States, and an article on The "Western Banker," by C. W. STEVENSON and others.

A monthly magazine dedicated to the photographic art, under the title of "El Fotógrafo Mexicano," contains some very interesting articles on photography. It is published in the City of Mexico.

Mr. J. R. SOUTHWORTH, author of "Sonora Illustrated" and "Sinaloa Illustrated," is in San Francisco bringing through the press his new work, "Lower California Illustrated."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Memoria de Fomento presentada al Congreso Constitucional de 1899." Government Printing Office, San José, Costa Rica, 1899.

"Commerce of the British West Indies and Other British Possessions in America South of the United States." Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, United States.

"Commercial China in 1899. Including area, population, production, railways, telegraphs, transportation routes, foreign commerce, and commerce of the United States with China." Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, United States.

"Exports of the Products of Domestic Manufacture from the United States, 1889–1898." Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, United States.

"Statistics of Railways in the United States in 1898." Advance copy with map. Interstate Commerce Commission, United States.

"Translation of the Notarial Laws in force in the Philippine Islands and Appendices Relating Thereto." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, United States.

"Maps and Descriptions of Routes of Exploration in Alaska in 1898." United States Geological Survey.

"The Mineral Resources of Hawaii." United States Geological Survey.

"The Mineral Resources of Puerto Rico." United States Geological Survey.

"Summary of the Mineral Production of the United States in 1898;" "Statistics of the American Iron Trade for 1898, and of the Foreign Iron Trade in 1898 and Immediately Preceding Years;" "The Production of Coal in 1898;" "The Production of Copper in 1898;" "The Production of Zinc in 1898;" The Stone Industry in 1898;" "The Production of Manganese Ores in 1898;" "The Production of Salt in 1898;" "The Production of Gypsum in 1898;" "The Production of Antimony in 1898;" "The Production of Sulphur and Pyrite in 1898;" "The Production of Abrasive Materials in 1898;" "The Production of Asbestos and Graphite in 1898;" "The Production of Mineral Waters in 1898;" "The Production of Soapstone in 1898." Separate publications (paper) of the Geological Survey of the United States.

Nineteenth Annual Report, 1897–98. Part I—"Director's Report, including Triangulation and Spirit Leveling;" Part IV—"Hydrography;" Part VI—"Mineral Resources of the United States, 1897: Metallic Products, Coal and Coke;" Part VI continued—"Mineral Resources: Nonmetallic Products, except Coal and Coke." (Cloth.) Geological Survey, United States.

BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. SETIEMBRE, 1899. No. 3.

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

EXPORTACIONES DURANTE LA PRIMERA MITAD DE 1899.

El periódico "The Review of the River Plate," en su número correspondiente al 15 de julio de 1899, publica datos estadísticos sobre las principales exportaciones de la República Argentina durante la primera mitad de 1899 á los puertos de Europa, la América del Norte, Africa y el Brasil. Por dichos datos se ve que la exportación de productos agrícolas han aumentado notablemente. El trigo muestra un aumento de 500,000 toneladas en comparación con el mismo período de 1898; el maíz, un aumento de 70,000 toneladas; la linaza, 30,000 toneladas, y la harina 11,000 toneladas, lo cual es exactamente el doble de la cantidad exportada en el año pasado. El quebracho muestra un aumento de 30,000 toneladas, equivalente á 50 por ciento. De las 1,078,819 toneladas de trigo que se exportaron, la Bélgica tomó 258,190, y viene en seguida la Gran Bretaña, que compró 123,347. Casi toda la mitad de toda la cantidad, sin embargo, que fué de 469,185, está clasificada bajo el encabezamiento de "Pedidos," sin determinar su destino.

De la cantidad de quebracho que se exportó, 97,026 toneladas, Alemania tomó 39,638, país que fué también el primer comprador de cueros de buey salados, pues recibió 291,415. Bélgica ocupo el segundo lugar, con 214,453 en un total de 606,217. Los Estados Unidos son el principal mercado para cueros de buey secos, pues de un total de 855,764 se remitieron á los puertos americanos 484,660. Se nota una diminución general en la producción de cueros, pieles, reses muertas y otros artículos de esta clase.

EXPORTACIÓN DE LANA Á ALEMANIA.

Según datos estadísticos oficiales suministrados al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington por Mr. LOUIS STERN, Agente Consular de los Estados Unidos en Bamberg, Alemania, la República Argentina, desde 1897, ha tomado el primer puesto entre los países interesados en proveer de lana el mercado de Alemania. La lana importada de la República Argentina, incluyendo la que llegó de Bélgica, que es principalmente lana argentina, ascendió á 204,366,420 libras en 1898, contra 169,754,200 libras en 1897, y 165,345,000 en 1895.

En 1898 la Alemania importó como 15,653,000 libras de lana de Australia y del Cabo de Buena Esperanza, y casi la misma cantidad en 1897, contra 213,846,200 libras en 1895. La diminución en la importación de lana de las colonias británicas se debe principalmente á la reducción en las importaciones de Australia, las cuales, desde 1895, han bajado á ser menos de la tercera parte de lo que eran. Se espera que la producción de dicho país disminuirá todavía más, porque, según un informe llegado de Nueva Gales Meridional, una prolongada sequía ha ocasionado la muerte de 200,000 carneros, y la producción general de lana en Australia ha descendido en un solo año de 1,500,000 á 250,000 pacas.

Se ve, pues, que las circunstancias actuales ofrecen á la República Argentina gran oportunidad para aumentar su tráfico de lana con Alemania. Naturalmente, al aumentar la exportación de este artículo para Alemania, se aumenterán también las importaciones de aquel país en la República Argentina, y se espera que el tráfico entre las dos naciones se desarrollará notablemente durante el actual año económico.

FÓSILES EN PATAGONIA.

La expedición geológica que fué enviada hace algunos meses por la Universidad de Princeton, bajo la dirección del Prof. J. B. HATCHER, ha regresado á los Estados Unidos con una gran colección de fósiles. Tan luego hubo llegado al estrecho de Magallanes, la expedición eligió á Puntarenas como cuartel general, y de aquel punto se dirigió á otros lugares con el objeto de hacer exploraciones y coleccionar muestras de fósiles, vertebrados é invertebrados. Como no se encuentra en ningún museo del norte un número considerable de fósiles de Patagonia, no se ha podido hacer una comparación directa entre los del norte y los del sur, y por esto el objeto principal de la expedición del Profesor HATCHER fué obtener una gran colección de los fósiles de aquel país casi desconocido. El éxito que obtuvo á este respecto fué muy satisfactorio, y también dedicó considerable atención á recoger muestras etnológicas, botánicas y zológicas. Los primeros mamíferos mesozóicos fueron encontrados por la expedición en el interior de Patagonia, y más de 30 cajas de vertebrados mesozóicos fueron enviados á los Estados Unidos. En el curso de sus investigaciones, el Profesor HATCHER obtuvo

informes muy valiosos sobre la vida y costumbre de los indios del país, y preparó una serie de negativas fotográficas que representan las condiciones geológicas y fisiográficas de aquella región meridional.

Mr. O. E. Peterson, Asistente del Profesor Hatcher, regresó de Patagonia á principios de setiembre. Pasó en la costa los dos meses que permaneció allá después que la expedición partió para los Estados Unidos. Mr. Peterson trajo consigo una colección muy valiosa de fósiles de peces y pájaros que va a ser colocada en el museo de Princeton.

BRASIL.

LA CIUDAD DE MANÁOS.

El Comandante C. C. Todd, en su informe oficial, fecha 28 de mayo de 1899, dirigido al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, y en el cual trata del viaje del *Wilmington* en el río de las Amazonas y sus afluentes, habla de las más nueva ciudad que existe en el valle del Amazonas en los términos siguientes:

"La ciudad de Manáos queda sobre la ribera izquierda del río Negro, á cinco millas de su confluencia con el río llamado en los mapas Solimões. Es el asiento del Gobierno del Estado de Amazonas. Con una población de 30,000 á 40,000 habitantes, ocupa hoy un lugar en la parte septentrional del Brasil segundo sólo al de la ciudad de Pará, cuando se toman en consideración su importación y exportación, así como el territorio que le es tributario. Es el punto de distribución de pasajeros y mercancías para los ríos Madeira, Purus, Jurua, Japara, Río Negro y parte del Javari, distribución que se hace por medio de los pequeños vapores de la línea del Amazonas. Aquí se trasbordan los artículos de alimentación para los que se ocupan en la extracción del hule, así como toda clase de efectos de tráfico. Todos los artículos de exportación deben ser declarados aquí ó en la aduana de Serpa. La renta de los Estados proviene principalmente de la exportación, pues los derechos de importación se supone que van á las cajas del Gobierno Federal.

"La ciudad de Manáos está alumbrada por la electricidad, tiene un ferrocarril eléctrico, obras hidráulicas establecidas por americanos, y un buen servicio de teléfonos. Hay una fábrica de hielo, y están empedrando las calles con los ladrillos conocidos con el nombre de Hasting's brick. Con una buena administración es claro que Manaos tiene delante de sí un porvenir brillante, si es que las actuales condiciones del tráfico continúan como están ó mejoran. * * * La parte de la ciudad que está sobre el río carece de suficiente protección y de los medios necesarios para mover la gran cantidad de carga que se recibe, pero se cree que esta situación cambiará pronto mediante créditos que al efecto

votarán ó el Gobierno Federal ó el del Estado. En este lugar, como en otros puertos brasileños, un oficial de marina ejerce el cargo de capitán del puerto, generalmente con el rango de comandante, y representa á la autoridad federal. La ciudad no tiene drenaje, pero se trata de establecer pronto un sistema completo. Lo que aquí se necesita es fundar un sistema racional de mejoras públicas.

"Se otorga una concesión, por ejemplo, á una persona responsable, para que lleve á efecto una mejora, y luego se da otra á un individuo distinto, sin tomar en cuenta la posibilidad de un conflicto entre las dos, ó los beneficios que ultimamente reportará la población, una vez que estén concluidas dichas mejoras. Las autoridades parecen ansiosas de hacer cuanto está en su poder, pero lo que, á mi juicio, se necesita más es un ingeniero civil de experiencia que comprenda que es lo que ha menester una ciudad de rápido crecimiento, y lo realice con el menor gasto posible, teniendo en mira las condiciones sanitarias para lo futuro. La situación de la ciudad es admirable, sobre un terreno elevado, que se puede desaguar fácilmente. Mientras no se establezca el sistema de drenaje, las condiciones higienicas de la población, que en la actualidad están muy lejos de ser satisfactorias, no mejorarán.

"Una de las grandes ventajas que posee el puerto de Manaos es que el río Negro casi no tiene corriente, y esto permite mover con facilidad y poco costo la carga, el carbón y otros objetos de trasporte. Los vapores de alta mar que vienen á este lugar, tiene boyas de anclaje á las que permanecen amarrados mientras están aquí. * * * He sido informado que desde hace algunos años el Estado de Amazonas trata de construir muelles á lo largo del río á los cuales puedan atracar las embarcaciones, pero el Gobierno Federal pretende que esta mejora es de su exclusivo derecho, y los deseos del Estado no se han realizado. Desde la altura donde está situada la ciudad se llega al río por medio de planos inclinados, sólidamente construidos de argamasa, y que permiten fácil acceso á los botes de la costa, que trasportan las mercancías á los buques anclados en medio de la corriente.

"El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos está representado aquí por un agente consular. El rápido crecimiento de la ciudad en estos últimos años, que parece continuará, y la gran cantidad de capital americano invertido aquí, son razones para que el representante consular en este lugar sea elevado á más alta categoría."

REDUCCIÓN EN LAS IMPORTACIONES.

El Señor GARCÍA, Vicecónsul del Brasil en el puerto de Nueva York, ha suministrado los datos oficiales relativos á las importaciones totales hechas en aquel país durante los primeros cinco meses de 1899, por lo cual se ve que las importaciones de todos los paises han disminuido, con excepción de las de la República Argentina, que aumentaron como el 13 por ciento. Este aumento se atribuye á la sequía en la parte norte del Brasil y á la actividad comercial en Pará. Las importaciones

de cereales del Río de la Plata han disminuido, y en el Brasil se prepara bastante harina del trigo importado de los Estados Unidos.

Se notó en las importaciones de los Estados Unidos una diminución de 11 por ciento durante los cinco meses mencionados, pero á pesar de que se dice que el Brasil ya no compra tanta harina como antes en los Estados Unidos, el hecho es que los datos estadísticos muestran que ha habido aumento en este artículo. Según el informe del Señor GARCÍA, la importación de harina en el Brasil durante los meses citados tuvo un valor de $1,343,812, contra $1,328,890 durante los primeros cinco meses de 1898.

La importación de géneros de algodón ha disminuido porque la producción de las fábricas del Brasil ha aumentado. Hubo también una disminución en la venta de provisiones, madera de construcción y algunas manufacturas. Entre los artículos que se consumen más que en años pasados figuran el carbón de piedra, aceites, hierro y acero.

También el comercio de la Gran Bretaña con el Brasil declinó bastante, pero no tanto como el de los Estados Unidos, pues su reducción fué solamente de 2.9 por ciento. La diminución en las importaciones de tejidos se notó principalmente en aquellos que hacen competencia á la producción nacional. La cantidad total importada de la Gran Bretaña durante el período mencionado ascendió á £1,750,520. Las importaciones provenientes de Francia disminuyeron 14 por ciento, y también las de Alemania declinaron.

FERROCARRILES EN CONSTRUCCIÓN.

Entre los ferrocarriles en construcción hay uno de Blumenau á Puerto Unión que pondrá en comunicación á los estados de Santa Catarina y Paraná, pasando por Cerro do Mar. Otro ferrocarril importante es el que va de Río Grande do Sul hasta el Río Uruguay, haciendo conexiones con otras líneas en Puerto Unión. Esto garantiza á esta ciudad un tráfico lucrativo con ambos estados.

Otras dos concesiones han sido otorgadas, una á Mr. VAN OEKEL, ingeniero alemán, y la otra al Señor CINE SELLIN, director de la próspera colonia de Houssa, la cual tiene 500,000 hectáreas de tierra en el Estado de Santa Catarina, principalmente en los distritos de Blemenau y Joinville. Los Señores KOPPEL Y CÍA., banqueros del Brasil, han tomado á su cargo la primera de estas empresas, y la otra está en manos de capitalistas de los Estados Unidos. La primera línea tendrá 350 millas de largo, y se calcula que costará como $8,000,000. Cuando esté terminada, abrirá al comercio del mundo la casi desconocida parte interior del Estado de Santa Catarina, y quizá hasta las secciones más ricas del Estado de Pará. La gran dificultad con que se tropieza en estos Estados es la falta de medios de trasporte. Otro obstáculo al desarrollo de esta región es el hecho de que la inmigración casi no existe ya, debido á leyes muy severas que se han expedido en Suecia y Alemania á ese respecto.

DERECHOS DIFERENCIALES SOBRE EL CAFÉ EN FRANCIA.

Uno de los principales obstáculos al desarrollo del tráfico entre Francia y la República del Brasil son los enormes derechos que el primero de estos dos paises impone al café que no llega de sus colonias. Dicho derecho es de 1 franco y 56 céntimos por kilogramo, lo cual, valorando el franco en 19.3 centavos, moneda de los Estados Unidos, da un derecho de 30.108 centavos sobre cada kilogramo, ó sean 2 libras 3 onzas.

En la actualidad los cafetaleros del Brasil están tratando de obtener una reducción de este derecho, y en esto encuentran el apoyo de las Cámaras de Comercio Asociadas de Francia, que han votado una resolución en favor de dicha reducción. La sustancia de esta resolución es que, en opinión de las Cámaras, la renta que producen los derechos de importación no se disminuiría sino temporalmente, puesto que la baratura del artículo aumentaría su consumo, así como también el del azúcar. Al mismo tiempo se daría más incremento al tráfico con el Brasil.

IMPUESTOS SOBRE LETRAS ROGATORIAS.

Con fecha 11 de julio de 1899, el Colonel CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en el Brasil, envió de Petrópolis al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington traducción de una nota del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de aquella República, manifestando que las letras rogatorias de carácter civil ó comercial que se reciban provenientes de tribunales extranjeros, por la vía diplomática, sólo tendrán efecto en el Brasil después que las partes interesadas ó sus representantes legales hayan pagado el derecho del sello á que están sujetas. Los sellos ó estampillas para el objeto se deben obtener en el Ministerio de Justicia y del Interior, cuando las letras estén dirigidas á los tribunales de la Capital Federal, y en el Tribunal seccional correspondiente, cuando se les envía allí en caso que la tramitación exigida haya de verificarse en cualquiera de los Estados.

EXPORTACIÓN DE CAFÉ.

El periódico "Le Nouveau Monde," de Paris, con fecha 12 de agosto de 1899, dice que se exportaron durante los primeros seis meses del año corriente 1,323,373 sacos de café de Rio Janeiro. De esta cantidad, 659,588 sacos llegaron de Minas Geraes, 568,508 del Estado de Rio Janeiro, 18,291 de São Paulo, y 77,036 de Espírito Santo.

CHILE.

ESTABLECIMIENTOS INDUSTRIALES EN VALDIVIA.

La ciudad de Valdivia, capital de la provincia del mismo nombre, tiene de 10,000 á 12,000 habitantes, y es una de las poblaciones más prósperas del sur de Chile. La provincia es rica en minerales, incluyendo oro, manganeso, cobre y carbón, mientras que en sus bosques se encuentran valiosas maderas de diferentes clases. Una de las principales industrias de la ciudad es la cervecería de ANWANTER BROS., que produce más de 8,000,000 de litros de cerveza anualmente. En la fabricación de esta bebida se consumen más de 30,000 quintales métricos de cebada y 30,000 kilogramos de lúpulo cada año. Hay empleados más de 300 trabajadores. El combustible que se usa es leña. Esta compañía tiene también una curtiduría de la cual salen anualmente de 8,000 á 10,000 cueros curtidos. Las otras casas que se dedican á la curtiduría son PROCHELLE Y CÍA., SEBASTIAN WORKMASTER, JULIO LOPSTEQUE, TEODORO PAUSENBERGER, RODOLFO BECKDORF, JERMAN EHRENFELD y Messrs. GEORGE Y CHARLES MARTIN. Las curtidurías de estas compañías producen cada una de 3,000 á 5,000 cueros curtidos al año. Mr. WORKMASTER solamente fabrica suela. La cáscara conocida con el nombre de lingüe, que es muy abundante en Chile, se emplea en la curtiduría.

Durante el año civil de 1897, 93 vapores y 8 buques de vela, todos extranjeros, entraron al puerto de Valdivia, y en ellos se exportaron productos por valor de más de $3,000,000 papel. En el mismo año el tráfico de cabotaje fué representado por 598 vapores y 30 buques de vela, que llevaron mercancías por valor de $8,367,983.

Se espera que la terminación del ferrocarril de Pitrufguen á Antilhue, que ahora se está construyendo, dará nuevo impulso al comercio general de la provincia. Los Estados Unidos no tienen representantes consulares en Valdivia.

NUEVO DIQUE SECO EN TALCAHUANO.

Hasta hace poco tiempo, no existía un solo dique seco en la costa sudamericana al Pacífico, y la República de Chile se veía obligada á enviar á Europa sus grandes buques de guerra y mercantes siempre que había necesidad de hacerles reparaciones, lo cual ocasionaba mucho trabajo y gastos. Los barcos de poco calado podían entrar en los diques flotantes de Valparaiso y Callao.

En 1878 un ingeniero francés fué nombrado para preparar los planos, con un calculo del costo, de un dique seco y de un arsenal de reparaciones, que debían ser construidos en la bahía de Talcahuano, situada como en el centro de la costa chilena. Según el primer proyecto, la obra debía ser construida con ataguías de argamasa, avanzando hacia

el mar por medio de cajones neumáticos, como se hizo con muy buen éxito en Tolón, Francia. En 1883 un ingeniero holandes, llamado DIRKS, fué consultado, y sometió algunos planos mejorados. Estos fueron aprobados por el Gobierno, y se hizo un contrato para la construcción á un costo de £546,320. El local escogido fué un arrecife, distante como 600 metros de la costa, y la obra debía estar unida á la tierra firme por medio de un malecón. El dique debía tener en el interior 616.8 pies de largo, de los cuales 340.25 pies tendrían en el fondo un ancho de 75.4 pies, y el resto solamente 55.7 pies. A la entrada del dique la profundidad debía ser en pleamar de 30.34 pies, y en el interior de 27.42 pies. A una distancia de 65 pies hacia el interior se debían hacer trabajos adicionales á fin de dar mayor capacidad á este dique, si fuese necesario. Las paredes exteriores del dique, cubiertas por el agua en bajamar, debían ser hechas de argamasa, puesta en capas sobre un cajón de aire comprimido, suspendido de lanchones. La parte exterior de la gradería del fondo y la albardilla debían ser de Lienita y piedra arenisca dura.

NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

El Gobierno Federal ha enviado una comisión á examinar los nuevos depósitos de carbón que han sido descubiertos en las provincias de Cautín y Malleco, á fin de que dé un informe sobre ellos. Si este es favorable, se otorgarán concesiones al público.

Algunos naturalistas alemanes y chilenos han estado trabajando con mucha actividad durante los veranos de 1889–1899 á fin de hacer descubrimientos en Patagonia.

COLOMBIA.

NUEVA COMPANIA MINERA.

El 1° de agosto la Colombia Concessions Company, Limited, fué constituida en corporación con personalidad legal en la ciudad de Londres, Inglaterra. El capital social declarado es de £3,500 en acciones de £1. El objeto de los promotores de esta empresa es "adquirir y explotar minas en la República de Colombia y en otras partes."

CUBA.

INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN 1899.

El Departamento de Guerra de los Estados Unidos dió al público el 27 de agosto un informe de notable interés referente á la condición económica de la Isla de Cuba, publicación importante porque demuestra que, á favor de una dirección inteligente, los ingresos de la isla desde

el 1° de enero hasta el 30 de junio de 1899 sobrepasan los egresos en la notable cantidad de $1,480,021.92. Este es un prospecto halagüeño, desde luego que los gastos fueron necesariamente más grandes de lo que serán una vez establecido el nuevo sistema administrativo.

Durante el período mencionado las entradas por todos conceptos alcanzaron á $6,982,010.20. Los egresos alcanzaron á $5,501,988.28, en cuya suma están representados los siguientes ramos de administración: Sanidad, $1,713,014.20; construcción y mejora de cuarteles y barracas, $305,263.06; hospitales y beneficencia, $293,881.37; trabajos públicos, obras de puerto y fuertes, $250,674.12; socorro á los destituidos, $88,944.03; cuarentena, $42,203.90; guardia rural y administración, $443,363.10; gobierno civil, $342,146.01; gobierno municipal, $725,281.38. Es digno de notarse que los ingresos aumentan en vez de disminuir, pues las entradas durante julio fueron 15 por ciento más grandes que las del año anterior. Las rentas de aduana durante este mes alcanzaron á $1,201,537; impuestos internos, $36,357; productos del correo, $15,000; productos varios, $63,433; lo que arroja un total general de $1,315,324. Los gastos durante el mes alcanzaron á $1,029,877.

Cuando termine el año, probablemente resultará que la reanimación gradual de las industrias y del comercio exterior han hecho aumentar las rentas á una cantidad mayor que la que arroja julio, la cual no sólo basta para atender á las necesidades del gobierno de la isla, sino que deja un saldo favorable bastante grande para atender á los trabajos de mejora que tanto se necesitan.

GUATEMALA.

EL CULTIVO DEL HULE.

Un artículo publicado en el periódico "L'Echo des Deux Mondes," correspondiente al 12 de agosto de este año, da los siguientes informes: el Gobierno de Guatemala, deseoso de fomentar el cultivo del hule en la República, ha decretado lo siguiente: (1) Que la extracción del hule, artículo que producen en abundancia las selvas de las costas, no será permitida, sino por una licencia especial otorgada por el Gobierno. (2) Que como premio, se dará una concesión de 112 acres de tierra á cualquiera persona que posea 20,000 árboles de hule de tres ó cuatro años de edad, y que hayan sido plantados después de la promulgación de este decreto.

PATENTE IMPORTANTE.

El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha concedido patente de invención al Señor J. GALLEGO de San José, por un relé para telegrafía. El "Telegraph Age" dice que el objeto del inventor ha sido producir un relé que tenga una gran potencia magnética la cual se pueda graduar

fácilmente. Consta el aparato de un imán provisto de un brazo giratorio colocado en ángulo recto á uno de sus extremos, mientras que la armadura gira sobre un pivote colocado en un eje perpendicular al del polo ó brazo de extensión. Con hacer girar estas piezas sobre sus ejes se altera la distancia que hay entre los polos y la armadura. Dícese que la invención es de mucha importancia.

HAITÍ.

EXPORTACIÓN DE CAFÉ.

El "International Customs Journal" (Diario International de Aduanas) dice que de conformidad con lo dispuesto por el Secretario de Estado, Hacienda y Comercio, con fecha 22 de junio de 1899, se ha dado aviso que solamente se permitirá en lo adelante la exportación de café escogido en la proporción de diez sacos por cada cien sacos de café no escogido, y la exportación de ambas clases debe hacerse simultáneamente. El café escogido que se exporte continuará pagando el impuesto de 2 gourdes, oro, por quintal.

HONDURAS.

COMERCIO EN FRUTAS TROPICALES.

El Departamento de Estado en Wáshington ha recibido de Mr. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Utila, un informe fechado á 1° de julio de 1899, que dice así:

"El comercio de bananos se ha mantenido á la altura acostumbrada en esta costa, pero las Islas de la Bahía no han recobrado de los estragos que sufrieron á causa de la tempestad que hubo aquí en los meses de octubre y noviembre pasados. La cosecha de piñas, mangos y otras frutas no ha sido buena en esta estación, debido á la falta de lluvias. Los precios son los siguientes: Bananos, 25 centavos, oro, por racimo; plátanos, $6.66, oro, por millar. Una sociedad de las conocidas con el nombre de *trust* trató de hacer bajar el precio de los bananos, pero los plantadores se unieron y se negaron á vender la fruta á dicha sociedad, mientras podían embarcarla en sus propios vapores. La 'Bluefields Banana Company' hace ahora el servicio de esta región con toda regularidad, y sus vapores llevan cargamentos considerables. Las importaciones se mantienen á la altura de acostumbre en esta estación del año."

MÉXICO.

YUCATÁN Y EL MERCADO DE GUITA.

La estrechez en el mercado de guita ha hecho pensar á muchos manufactureros y traficantes que los productores de henequén en Yucatán tienen la llave de la situación. Las condiciones que actualmente prevalecen en Yucatán y la posición dominante que ocupan los productores de henequén desde el punto de vista económico, indican que los precios que ahora existen continuarán, si es que no aumentan. En 1897 el precio de esta fibra bajo á $2\frac{3}{4}$ centavos por libra y permaneció así durante muchos meses. Deduciendo el costo de transportación y corretaje, muy poca fué la ganancia que le tocó al agricultor, aunque el promedio del costo de la producción no excedió de 2 centavos por libra. El precio, sin embargo, ha avanzado rápidamente durante el año pasado, y en julio de 1898 llegó á $9\frac{1}{2}$ centavos. Desde entonces no ha bajado de $5\frac{1}{2}$ centavos. Durante los últimos diez y ocho meses, el precio medio que han obtenido los productores ha sido como de 6 centavos, y la ganancia de 4 centavos por libra. Si llegase á haber una baja en el precio de la fibra de Manila, no habría mucha esperanza, según la opinión de los que trafican en artículos de esta clase, algunos de los cuales han estado últimamente en Yucatán, de que se realizaran los deseos de los que se prometen un precio bajo en el henequén.

Un corredor de henequén de Londres, en su informe mensual sobre esta fibra, dice, refiriéndose á la probabilidad de que la oferta de fibra de Manila sea muy pequeña, lo siguiente:

"Hablando en términos generales, la situación se define de esta manera: el consumo anual del mundo es de 9,000,000 pacas. La producción en 1897 y 1898 fué de 875,000 y 742,000, respectivamente, y en el año actual será probablemente mucho menor, pues hasta la fecha solamente se han recibido 316,000 pacas. Las cantidades que quedan en manos de los consumidores son cada día menores, y en algunos casos se han agotado por completo."

En condiciones normales la tendencia natural del precio de las fibras, al terminar la cosecha, es de disminuir en valor, pero tal cosa no se observa ahora, sino que al contrario, tanto el precio de la fibra de Manila como el del henequén aumentan constantemente.

Según despachos cablegráficos recibidos de Manila con fecha 31 de julio, ha habido un ligero aumento en las cantidades que se recibieron durante la semana que terminó el 29 de julio, pues ascendieron á 16,000 pacas. Existen almacenadas en Manila 93,000 pacas, contra 135,000 en 1897, y como otro tanto en 1898. Los cargamentos durante los primeros siete meses del año fueron inferiores á los del año pasado en más de 100,000 pacas, pues el total desde el 1° de enero asciende á 148,000 pacas. El valor del henequén exportado anualmente de Yucatán se calcula en $16,000,000.

En consecuencia de este estado de cosas, se están haciendo ensayos con muchas plantas fibrosas que se suponen capaces de producir buena guita para el mercado, y la más importante de las cuales es la conocida con el nombre de "wire grass," que crece en los estados del oeste de los Estados Unidos, y que hasta ahora se había considerado como inútil.

Á este respecto es interesante notar el aumento en el valor del henequén mexicano durante el presente año comparado con los años de 1897 y 1898. En los siete meses que terminaron en julio de 1897, la cantidad importada, según aparece en los Informes de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda, alcanzó á 39,980 toneladas, avaluadas en $2,421,735; durante el mismo período de 1898, dicha cantidad aumentó á 43,060 toneladas, habiendo subido en valor á $4,553,370, suma mayor de lo que correspondería al aumento. Durante los siete meses de 1899, el aumento habido en la cantidad y su valuación es más desproporcionado todavía, pues se importaron 39,305 toneladas, cuyo valor total representa casi el doble del de 1897, arrojando la suma de $4,999,392.

También se nota disparidad igual entre los guarismos que representan las importaciones de cañamo de Manila durante los siete meses de 1898 y 1899, que son 27,088 toneladas, avaluadas en $1,781,058, y 28,182 toneladas, avaluadas en $3,120,261, respectivamente.

DESARROLLO DEL COMERCIO CON ST. LOUIS.

El "St. Louis Finance," publicación mensual consagrada á los intereses bancarios, bolsistas, bienes raices y finanzas del sudoeste de los Estados Unidos, contiene, en su edición correspondiente á agosto de este año, un artículo que demuestra el aumento que ha habido en el comercio entre la ciudad de St. Louis y las ciudades principales de México, y que las relaciones comerciales ya establecidas son satisfactorias para ambos mercados. Las observaciones de dicho periódico las confirman el "Modern Mexico," publicación destinada especialmente al comercio interior y exterior de México, y los diarios de St. Louis que se ocupan de los intereses directos de la ciudad. El artículo en referencia dice, entre otras cosas, lo siguiente:

"No todos saben cuan rápido ha sido el desarrollo del comercio de St. Louis con México. Nuestra República hermana ha ido separándose gradualmente de los métodos primitivos de comercio que hacian tan difíciles nuestras relaciones con ella en el pasado, y adoptando los métodos modernos, que abren las avenidas del comercio en general. No hace mucho tiempo que todos los negocios con México se hacían por correo. Es una indicación notable del desarrollo de nuestro comercio con los mexicanos que hoy, no obstante los cambios radicales que han tenido lugar, sólo usan del correo para hacer unos pocos pedidos, y aun así este mismo método ha aumentado cuatro veces más de lo que era hace dos años. St. Louis goza de un comercio con México mayor que el de cualquier otra ciudad de los Estados Unidos y los comerciantes

y fabricantes de aquí se ocupan en hacer que continúe siendo así. Á México se envían al presente muchos agentes viajeros, y además de esto, las relaciones entre los comerciantes mexicanos y los fabricantes y los vendedores al por mayor de aquí, han sido cultivadas tan cuidadosamente, que muchos de los compradores mexicanos vienen en persona á St. Louis á hacer sus negocios.

"Los métodos anticuados aplicables al sistema de pagos y de créditos ya no se usan, y en vez de comprar á créditos que varían de seis meses á un año, los comerciantes mexicanos pagan con más prontitud, compran á créditos más cortos y siempre que es posible se aprovechan de las ventajas de los descuentos por pagos al contado. No obstante hallarse México y los Estados Unidos en un mismo continente y estar unidos por estrechos lazos, las producciones naturales oriundas de cada país son tan distintas entre sí, que los negocios entre los dos países deberían tener un gran volumen. Conservando las relaciones en el estado en que se hallan al presente y animándolas por todos los medios compatibles con los intereses comerciales, el comercio en cuestión llegará á ser de provechosos beneficios para los dos países".

RIQUEZAS DEL ESTADO DE TABASCO.

M. MARTIN, Agente Consular de Francia en San Juan Bautista, acaba de enviar á su Gobierno un informe sobre las riquezas del Estado de Tabasco, y la industria y tráfico de esta parte de México. Tabasco es el más fértil de todos los Estados de la República mexicana, y su clima y topografía son tales que se prestan al desarrollo de la agricultura. Pueden darse allí todos los productos tropicales, tales como maíz, frijoles, arroz, cacao, café, caña de azúcar, goma elástica, pimienta, tabaco, vainilla, plátanos, naranjas, etc. Escogiendo buenas semillas, puede producirse en Tabasco un tabaco de superior calidad. El cacao de Tabasco es reconocido como el mejor del mundo, pero se le cultiva en pequeña escala y no es suficiente para el consumo local. Los cafetos dan fruto desde el tercer año, si las condiciones del suelo son favorables, y la goma elástica ofrece un gran porvenir. El suelo se adapta especialmente para la caña de azúcar, y numerosas plantaciones han sido explotadas durante veinte treinta y cuarenta años con excelentes resultados. La vainilla crece silvestre como el hule y su cultivo sería fácil y lucrativo.

Refiriéndose á asuntos industriales, dicho informe hace mención de algunas industrias del Estado de Tabasco, de las cuales la más importante es la explotación de caoba, cedro y la madera de tinte llamada palo de Campeche. Se exporta tabaco en rama, así como productos manufacturados á Nueva York y á Europa. M. MARTIN agrega que hay algunas manufacturas de ladrillos, baldosas, velas, jabón y fósforos, todas las cuales dejan buenas ganancias. El comercio de Tabasco se ha desarrollado de una manera sorprendente, y la importación de artículos extranjeros aumenta cada año.

De los Estados Unidos se importan maquinaria, muebles, instrumentos de agrícolas, tejidos de algodón y de otras clases. La mayor parte de las mercancías que se introducen viene de España. Los vinos, los licores, los perfumes y algunas joyas vienen de Francia, mientras que la Alemania manda artículos de hojalata. Al terminar, M. MARTIN declara que se puede predecir sin exageración que dentro de tres años el comercio de Tabasco será tres veces mayor de lo que es hoy.

MANUFACTURA DE YUTE.

Mediante una concesión que no pesa ni sobre el Tesoro de la República, ni sobre la compañía que la ha obtenido, ni sobre el consumidor, una industria lucrativa se ha establecido en México. El 3 de diciembre de 1892, el Gobierno mexicano celebró un contrato con Mr. T. F. E. KINELL, quien recibió autorización de establecer, dentro de cinco años, cuatro fábricas de yute en ciertas localidades escogidas por el Gobierno. Para este objeto se necesitaba un capital de $200,000 en moneda mexicana, de cuya cantidad $10,000 debían ser invertidos en bonos de la deuda nacional consolidada.

Los trabajos en la primera de estas fábricas comenzaron nueve meses después de la promulgación del contrato, habiéndose estipulado que la obra estaría terminada dentro de tres años. Se emitió una disposición relativa á que fuesen admitidas, libres de derecho, todas las materias primas y la maquinaria necesarias para el establecimiento de dicha fábrica. Ademas de los privilegios otorgados, se concedió por diez años exención de toda clase de contribuciones federales, excepto el impuesto del timbre.

Dos años después de la celebración del contrato y un año antes de la fecha fijada, se fundó en México la primera fábrica de yute, que es también la primera en el mundo entero en que se usa la electicidad como fuerza motriz. Estimulada por los privilegios concedidos á Mr. KINELL, se organizó en Londres una compañía con un capital de $487,000, que más tarde debe elevarse á $730,000. Con permiso del Gobierno mexicano, Mr. KINELL traspasó su contrato á esta compañía, que ahora posee y administra la fábrica en el lugar llamado Congregación de Barrio Nuevo, que dista 1 milla de la ciudad de Orizaba.

La fuerza motriz que se emplea en la fábrica es la electricidad, la cual se obtiene de la cascada de Barrio Nuevo, que, teniendo una altura de 117 pies, puede suplir, durante la estación de las lluvias, 12,000 caballos de fuerza. En la actualidad se emplean más de 600 operarios, pero este número se aumentará pronto hasta 1,000. La maquinaria que se usa es perfecta y con todos los adelantos modernos; en ella están incluidos 70 motores (2 de los cuales son de 150 caballos de fuerza), un sistema perfecto de luz eléctrica, 120 telares y otra clase de maquinaria. La producción diaria en 1895 era de 4 á 5 toneladas. En 1899 es de 8 toneladas, y se espera que antes de mucho tiempo

llegará á 10. Los productos principales son alfombras, sacos para granos y tela de embalar. Estos artículos tienen mucha demanda y compiten favorablemente con los importados.

SOCIEDAD PARA LA EXPLOTACIÓN DE MINAS DE PLOMO.

En el mes de julio del año corriente, la "Mexican Lead Company" solicitó que se la constituyese en corporacíon con personalidad legal en Trenton, New Jersey, Estados Unidos de la América. Esta corporación fué organizada por Mr. ROBERT S. TOWNE, presidente de la "Northern Railway Company" de México, y por otras personas relacionadas con la Compañía Metalúrgica Mexicana. Esta compañía cuenta con un capital de $7,000,000, y va á explotar minas de plomo en la vecindad de Monterrey.

La Compañía del Ferrocarril del Norte tiene una línea abierta al tráfico, que va á terminar á esta nueva propiedad minera. El mismo sindicato que maneja el ferrocarril administra también la "Alvarez Land and Timber Company" y la "Sombrerete Mining Company."

COMPAÑÍA DE FERROCARRIL MINERAL MEXICANA.

La Compañía de Ferrocarril Mineral Mexicana (Mexican Mineral Railroad Company) fué organizada recientemente en la ciudad de Albany, Estado de Nueva York, con un capital social de $350,000. El ferrocarril está situado en su totalidad dentro de los límites del Estado de Nuevo León, y se extenderá desde la ciudad de Monterrey hasta el distrito minero de San Pedro. Los directores nombrados son: GEORGE D. COOK y GEORGE B. TURNER, de Chicago, y WILLIAM F. GILLESBY, ROBERT S. TOWNE, CHARLES J. NOURSE, Jr., GEORGE F. PEABODY, EDWARD M. SHEPARD, ACOSTA NICHOLS, y CHARLES J. PEABODY, de Nueva York.

CULTIVO DEL HULE.

Según el periódico "Le Nouveau Monde," correspondiente al 12 de agosto, gran cantidad de árboles de hule ha sido enviada al Secretario de Fomento, á fin de que los distribuya entre aquellos agricultores que deseen dedicarse al cultivo de dicha planta. Estos árboles son de una clase especial, y sin duda alguna darán buenos resultados en las regiones tropicales de México.

NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Varias de las minas más grandes del distrito de Parral, Estado de Chihuahua, van á ser provistas de luz eléctrica y fuerza motriz, también producida por la electricidad. La maquinaria para llevar á cabo estas mejoras ha sido pedida á los Estados Unidos.

El ramal de Mapimi del Ferrocarril Internacional Mexicano, desde el empalme de Bermejillo hasta la estación del mismo nombre, antes conocida con el nombre de Mapimi, sobre el ramal de Tlahualilo, en el

Ferrocarril Central Mexicano, fué abierto al tráfico el 30 de julio del año corriente.

La demanda por maquinaria para la transmisión de fuerza motriz eléctrica en las plantaciones va en aumento en los Estados meridionales de la República. Últimamente se recibió en Veracruz, proveniente de Nueva York, un gran cargamento de maquinaria de esta clase destinada á plantaciones de azúcar y de café.

La Compañía Eléctrica de Guadalupe está poniendo cuatro nuevos dinamos en la cascada de Juancatlán, cerca de la ciudad, á fin de hacer frente á la creciente demanda por fuerza motriz y luz eléctrica. Durante los últimos dos años se han hecho muchas mejoras de importancia al gran establecimiento de la "Guadeloupe Power Company."

La Secretaría de la Guerra de México ha celebrado un contrato con la casa de G. y O. BRANIFF, de la ciudad de México, para el establecimiento de todas las líneas de teléfono que dicho Departamento pueda necesitar. La mencionada casa se compromete á suplir todo el material necesario para la obra. Como el Gobierno piensa establecer en todo el país muchas líneas de teléfono para el servicio militar, el citado contrato es muy importante.

El Señor FRANCISCO ARMENDAIZ, capitalista de Monterrey, se prepara á construir un ferrocarril que ponga en comunicación á Matamoros con Monterrey y Laredo. Se dice que el proyecto es muy importante y que va á dar por resultado el que se abran al comercio varios puertos en el golfo de México. Una de las cosas más importantes relacionadas con este ferrocarril es la construcción de un tajamar de 3 millas de largo. El Señor ARMENDAIZ está listo á contratar por toda la maquinaria y materiales que se necesitan para el empresa.

Se anuncia que la inauguración formal del primer ferrocarril eléctrico en la República se verificará en la ciudad de México á fines de setiembre. La obra de alterar los tranvías del Distrito Federal, á fin de que la tracción se haga por la electricidad y no por mulas, ha progresado mucho. Casi todo el material pedido á los Estados Unidos ha sido recibido. La mayor parte de todos los rieles pesados ha sido ya puesta en la sección que se extiende desde los suburbios de Guadelupe hasta Peralvillo; de allí al Zócalo, siguiendo hacia el sur hasta la Garita de la Piedad, y continuando hasta los suburbios de Tacubaya, San Pedro, Mixcoac y San Angel. Se están colocando los postes para los alambres de transmisión.

Las lluvias han sido muy abundantes en la parte central de México, así como en los Estados fronterizos, y las cosechas prometan mucho. La de trigo ha sido recogida ya, y se espera que la de maíz va á ser muy grande y va á dejar pingües ganancias á los agricultores. Mr. W. N. STROUD, agente de la "Rock Island Power Company," de Dallas, Texas, dice que ha viajado por una gran parte de aquella República y que, á su juicio, México está gozando de una prosperidad sin precedente. Agrega que el comercio ha tomado mucho incremento, y que vendió en los últimos dos meses 500 arados de disco.

PERÚ.

CAMBIO EN LA MONEDA.

En un artículo titulado "South American trade should come this way" (El Comercio de la América del Sur debería venirse hacia nosotros), el "Journal of Finance" de Nueva York, correspondiente al mes de setiembre, dice lo siguiente:

"Es interesante y quizá hasta importante observar que el Perú ha cambiado su unidad monetaria, que antes era el sol, equivalente al *dollar* de los Estados Unidos, y que en lo futuro será la libra, igual á la moneda que en Inglaterra se llama *pound sterling*. Este cambio es el resultado de haberse sustituido en el Perú el patrón de plata con el de oro. La adopción de esta nueva unidad monetaria se debe, sin duda alguna, al hecho de que la mayor parte del tráfico del Perú es con la Gran Bretaña, y, por tanto, se desea establecer similitud entre las monedas de ambos paises, á fin de facilitar las transacciones comerciales y al mismo tiempo hacer más fácil el cambio."

En el mismo artículo dice el "Journal" que los americanos harían bien en observar los esfuerzos que los ingleses están haciendo para fortalecer y estrechar los lazos comerciales y económicos que unen á la Gran Bretaña con los paises meridionales de nuestro continente. El buen éxito que han alcanzado algunos de los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos en cuanto á vender sus productos en la América del Sur no es ignorado por los ingleses, y por esto muestran tanta actividad y energía en conservar y aumentar su comercio en aquella parte del globo.

PRODUCTOS DEL ÁRBOL DE QUINA.

Como es bien sabido, el árbol de quina produce una corteza medicinal de la cual se extrae la quinina. Es oriundo este árbol de la región occidental de la América del Sur y principalmente del Perú, aunque en la actualidad solamente una pequeña parte de la quina que el mundo consume sale de aquel país. Dos terceras partes son producidas en la isla de Java, donde la planta se cultiva desde que el Gobierno holandés la llevó del Perú en 1852. También el Gobierno inglés ha hecho formar plantaciones de dicho árbol en la India, donde ahora se produce la quina en gran cantidad.

Según los datos oficiales contenidos en el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, se introdujeron el año pasado en este país 1,539,056,750 granos de quinina, ó sean 20 granos por cada habitante. Más de 125,000,000 granos fueron consumidos por los soldados de los Estados Unidos durante la última guerra, y se asegura que en este país se consume como la tercera parte de la quinina que el mundo produce.

No hay datos disponibles para mostrar á qué cantidad ascendió la corteza de quina importada en los Estados Unidos en 1898, pero, según los datos estadísticos oficiales de la Gran Bretaña, en los seis primeros meses de 1899 se importó en aquel país quina por valor de £34,339. Durante el mismo período la exportación de quina, de la cual los Estados Unidos tomaron una parte considerable, se elevó á £40,750.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 315 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, cuyo jefe es Mr. O. P. AUSTIN. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de julio de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los siete meses que terminaron en julio de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Ministerio de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de julio, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en setiembre.

RIQUEZAS MINERALES EN 1898.

El 22 de agosto de este año se publicó un resumen del vigésimo informe anual de la Oficina Geológica, relativo á la producción mineral de los Estados Unidos durante el año civil de 1898. Un examen de los datos estadísticos demuestra que desde 1880 el valor total de los productos minerales del país ha aumentado cerca del 90 por ciento, ó sea de $369,319,000 á $697,880,002.

El aumento normal, según estos datos, durante los diez y nueve años, ha sido en la proporción de $18,000,000 anualmente, pero durante los cinco años que han transcurrido desde 1893 el aumento ha sido de cerca de $25,000,000 al año. Mientras que la proporción normal del aumento puede haber sido una cantidad que esté comprendida entre las dos que se acaban de citar, los totales muestran gran irregularidad. De 1894 á 1895 el aumento fué de cerca de $100,000,000, y en el año siguiente fué solamente de algo más de un millón, mientras que de 1892 á 1894 hubo una diminución de más de $121,000,000, debida á la depresión en los negocios. De 1896 á 1897 el aumento fué como de $8,000,000, cerca

de 1.3 por ciento, mientras que de 1897 á 1898 el aumento fué de $66,970,534, ó sea más de 2½ veces el promedio del aumento anual de 1893 á 1898, y una diferencia de cosa de 11 por ciento sobre el valor de lo producido en 1897.

El producto total en 1898 fué el más grande en la historia del país, y excedió al de 1892, que hasta entonces había ocupado el primer puesto, en cerca de $50,000,000. Esto se debe á un desarrollo general en la producción de minerales, pues la de los principales ha crecido notablemente, y en casi todos los productos minerales se nota un aumento.

Á este respecto, conviene hacer observar que los datos obtenidos por los compiladores del Tomo VII de la obra titulada "Mineral Industry," que es un libro que contiene algunos centenares de páginas y que fué publicado poco antes de que se publicara el informe del Gobierno, concuerdan substancialmente con los datos oficiales. Ambos trabajos muestran que los Estados Unidos fueron por mucho el primer país productor de hierro y acero en el mundo en 1898, y ocuparon el primer lugar, después de la Gran Bretaña, en la producción de carbón, habiendo también provisto á los mercados del mundo de más de la mitad del cobre que se consumió. Ninguna nación puede competir con los Estados Unidos en el valor total de su producción mineral, que en 1898 fué de $697,880,002, contra $630,909,468 en 1897.

El valor de todos los productos metálicos en 1898 fué de $344,096,130, contra $302,198,502 en 1897, ó sea un aumento de $41,897,628. Todos los metales, excepto el níquel, aumentaron mucho, y el cobre, plomo, zinc, aluminio y antimonio llegaron á su más alto grado, tanto por la cantidad producida como por su valor; pero mientras que la cantidad de hierro en lingotes producida en 1898 fué mayor que en ningún otro año, el valor de este producto fué mucho menos que en 1890 ó 1892, aunque excedió en $21,434,701 á lo que había sido en 1897, siendo esto más de la mitad del aumento total en los productos metálicos de 1897 á 1898.

Los productos no metálicos aumentaron de $327,710,966 en 1897 á $352,783,872, ó sea un aumento de $25,072,906. El artículo que mostró un crecimiento más notable en su producción fué el carbón bituminoso, que aumentó de $119,567,224 en 1897 á $132,586,313 en 1898, ó sea un aumento de $13,019,089. El valor del antracito, sin embargo, sufrió una reducción de cerca de $4,000,000, mientras que la cantidad producida aumentó en 688,361 toneladas. Los otros productos cuya producción aumentó notablemente en valor fueron la piedra, el petróleo, el gas natural y las aguas minerales.

Las cifras oficiales respecto de la producción y valor de los productos principales son las siguientes:

Hierro y acero: Hierro en lingotes, 11,773,934 toneladas, contra 9,652,680 toneladas en 1897; el promedio de precio aumentó de $9.85 en 1897 á $9.90 por tonelada en 1898; acero de Bessemer en lingotes, 6,609,017 toneladas; aumento, 1,133,702 toneladas; acero denominado

"open hearth," 2,230,290 toneladas; aumento, 621,621 toneladas, ó sea el 35 por ciento; minerales de hierro, 19,278,369 toneladas, valoradas en $22,012,542, lo cual es un aumento de 1,760,323 toneladas y una ganancia en valor de $3,059,321. El promedio de precio de la tonelada del mineral de hierro en 1898 fué de $1.14, contra $1.08 en 1897.

La producción de oro continuó en aumento y fué valorada en $64,463,000, habiendo sido la cantidad producida 3,118,398 onzas Troy. La producción en 1897 fué de 2,774,935 onzas Troy, valoradas en $57,363,000. La producción de plata fué de 53,860,000 onzas Troy en 1897, cuyo valor, una vez acuñado este metal, ascendió á $69,637,172 en 1897; y en 1898 se produjo del mismo metal la cantidad de 54,438,000 onzas Troy, que acuñadas tuvieron un valor de $70,384,485. El valor comercial de dicho producto, sin embargo, bajo de $33,316,000 á $32,118,420, ó sea una pérdida de $197,580. Los Estados Unidos continúan siendo el primer país productor de plata en el mundo, y México viene en seguida.

La producción de cobre aumentó de 494,078,274 libras, valoradas en $54,080,180, en 1897, á 526,512,987 libras, valoradas en $61,865,276, en 1898. El aumento se verificó principalmente en Arizona y Michigan, mientras que en Montana la producción disminuyó. El promedio del precio por libra en 1898 fué 11.75 centavos; en 1897, 11 centavos, y en 1896, 10.5 centavos. Esta cantidad y este valor fueron las más grandes de que hay recuerdo. La escasez de cobre y el aumento en su precio, así como el enorme desarrollo á que ha llegado la especulación en este metal, no se hicieron sentir sino hasta el fin del año, y no afectaron de una manera perceptible los datos sobre la producción. La gran actividad que se manifiesta en la exploración de nuevas minas de cobre no afectará probablemente la producción en 1899, debido al tiempo que se necesita para la explotación de dichas minas y para fundar establecimientos de beneficio.

La producción nacional de plomo en 1898 fué de 231,269 toneladas, contra 212,000 en el año anterior. El valor de este artículo también aumentó de $14,885,728 en 1897 á $17,345,175 en 1898. La mayor parte del aumento fué debido á Colorado y á Utah. También hubo un ligero aumento en la producción de Missouri. La de Montana se redujo como en 2,000 toneladas. Además de lo expuesto, los fundidores americanos sacaron en 1898 89,209 toneladas de plomo de minerales extranjeros y de lingotes que se importaron. El promedio del precio del plomo en Nueva York fué de $3.78 la libra, contra $3.58 en 1897.

La producción de zinc alcanzó en 1898 á 115,399 toneladas de 2,000 libras, valoradas en $10,385,910, mientras que en 1897 había sido de 99,980 toneladas, valoradas en $8,498,300. La producción de este metal en 1898 fué la mayor de que hay recuerdo en el país. La cantidad de mineral de zinc exportada fué de 11,782 toneladas, valoradas en $299,870, contra 9,250 toneladas con un valor de $211,350 en 1897. Casi todo el mineral exportado provino del Estado de New Jersey, y el

resto de la cantidad producida en 1898 salió de las minas de Missouri y Kansas.

La producción de azogue, que había declinado en 1897, mejoró en 1898, y aumentó de 26,648 frascos á 31,092. El valor aumentó de $993,445 á $1,188,627. El valor por frasco en 1897 fué de $37.28; en 1898 fué de $38.23. Este artículo viene principalmente de California.

La producción de aluminio en 1898, fué de 5,200,000 libras, valoradas en $1,716,000, contra 4,000,000 libras, valoradas en $1,500,000, en 1897. El aumento en el precio del cobre hizo que el aluminio fuera sustituido á dicho metal para muchos usos.

La producción total de antimonio en 1898 fué de 2,240,000 libras, valoradas en $184,050, contra 1,512,000 libras, con un valor de $109,655, en 1897. Como el 80 por ciento de este metal fué extraído de minerales extranjeros. La cantidad de antimonio sacada de las minas de los Estados Unidos en 1898 fué de 697 toneladas.

La producción de mineral de manganeso fué la mayor que ha habido desde 1891, pero aunque mostró un aumento de cerca de 44 por ciento sobre la de 1897 (de 11,108 á 15,957 toneladas), no fué más de dos terceras partes de lo que había sido en 1889, 1890 y 1891. El valor de este producto en 1898 fué de $129,185, contra $95,505 en 1897.

La producción nacional de níquel es insignificante, si se la compara con el consumo anual, y el mercado es principalmente suplido por el Canadá. La cantidad producida, que en 1897 fué de 23,707 libras, bajó en 1898 á 13,411 libras. Casi todo el níquel producido en el país sale del Estado de Minnesota. En las refinerías de los Estados Unidos se beneficiaron 1,738,929 libras de níquel, en lo cual van incluidos los minerales nacionales é importados. El promedio de precio en Nueva York fué 34.5 centavos por libra en 1898, contra 34.63 centavos por libra en 1897.

La producción combinada de carbón bituminoso y antracito en 1898 fué de 196,405,953 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglesas, equivalentes á 219,974,667 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ó sea un aumento de 9½ por ciento. De este gran total, 148,742,878 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglesas fueron de carbón bituminoso. El aumento real en 1898 sobre 1897 fué de 17,636,609 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglesas, ó sean 19,753,002 toneladas de 2,000 libras, casi exclusivamente de carbón bituminoso. El valor de este producto aumentó casi el 5 por ciento en el año, ó sea de $198,869,178 á $208,000,850.

Durante muchos años anteriores á 1898 la demanda por carbón bituminoso había sido menos que la oferta, y los traficantes en este artículo tuvieron que luchar contra estas condiciones del mercado, las cuales cambiaron en 1898, y, en vez de esforzarse para obtener nuevos mercados ó conservar los viejos, no podían llenar con prontitud los pedidos que se les hacían. Esto se debió á la demanda por combustible en las fábricas de hierro, de acero y de otros artículos, tanto durante la estación de calor como en el invierno. Había tal necesidad de

trabajadores para otras grandes industrias que se hacía difícil conseguirlos en número suficiente para las minas. Á pesar de esto, el promedio de precio por tonelada de carbón bituminoso bajó de 81 centavos, que había sido en 1897, á 80 centavos en 1898, continuando así el período de declinación en el precio del carbón, que comenzó en 1897. La razón que se ha dado para dicha declinación en 1898 es el aumento en el uso de maquinaria calculada para economizar trabajo manual. Entre los 30 Estados que contribuyeron á la producción de este artículo, hubo 22 en 1898 que produjeron más que en ningún otro año.

Notable también fué el año en la producción de cok. El aumento sobre 1897 fué de 2,713,404 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ó sea de 13,288,984 de dichas toneladas en 1897 á 16,047,209 en 1898. Este aumento se debe directamente al incremento que han tomado las industrias de hierro y acero.

El valor de la producción de petróleo crudo aumentó en $3,253,748 en el año, ó sea de $40,929,611 en 1897 á $44,183,359 en 1898. Mientras que el producto tuvo mayor valor, el número de barriles disminuyó de 60,568,081, que había sido en 1897, á 55,354,233 en 1898.

Á medida que se agotan gradualmente los depósitos de gas natural, la producción de este artículo continúa disminuyendo, pero su valor aumentó de $13,826,423 en 1897 á $14,750,000 en 1898.

En cuanto al valor de materiales para construcciones, el valor de la piedra aumentó de $34,667,772 á $36,607,264; el de la pizarra de $780,112 á $1,370,075; el de la arcilla, incluyendo los productos de la alfarería, de $62,359,991 á $71,597,380; el del cemento de Portland (con un aumento de 1,014,509 barriles) de $4,315,891 á $5,970,773; el del cemento de roca natural declinó de $3,862,392 á $3,810,728.

El valor de artículos como piedras de molino y de amolar, corindon y esmeril, piedra de asentar, tierra de infusorio y granate para el efecto de estregar, aumentó de $754,222 á $1,075,046.

Las sustancias químicas producidas, incluyendo fosfatos, yeso, bromo, bórax, espato, azufre y pirita de hierro para usarse en la manufactura de ácido sulfúrico, tuvieron un valor de $6,145,165 en 1898, contra $5,112,450 en 1897. La producción de sal fué la mayor de que hay recuerdo—17,612,634 barriles de 280 libras cada una, contra 15,973,202 barriles en 1897. El aumento en la cantidad fué acompañada de una alza de 15 por ciento en el precio, y el valor total aumentó de $4,920,020 en 1897 á $6,212,554 en 1898. Los productores recibieron por cada barril un precio medio de 35.3 centavos.

La producción de la mayor parte de los colores, incluyendo tinturas metálicas, ocre, tierra de sombra, tierra de siena, rojo de Venecia, blanco de zinc, barita, minio y albayalde, litargirio, anaranjado mineral y óxido de cobalto, declinaron, pero debido al gran aumento en el valor del blanco de zinc (de $1,750,000 á $2,310,000) el gran total muestra un valor en 1898 de $3,124,967, contra $2,635,320 en 1897.

El valor de la producción de piedras preciosas aumentó de $130,675, que había sido en 1897, á $160,920 en 1898. El hecho más notable

durante el año fué el descubrimiento de cristal de roca en el Estado de California de calidad casi igual á la del Japón. Se cortaron pedazos hasta de 7 pulgadas de diámetro. También son notables el aumento en la producción de zafiros en Montana, la continua producción de las minas de turquesa de Nueva México, el descubrimiento de turmalinas en Maine y Connecticut, el aumento en la introducción de diamantes, y el desarrollo en la industria de taller estos últimos.

El número de galones de aguas minerales que se vendió en 1897 fué de 23,255,911, valorados en $4,559,106; en 1898 las ventas ascendieron á 28,853,464 galones, valorados en $8,051,833. El por ciento de aumento en galones fué 24, mientras que el aumento en valor fué 75.07 por ciento.

En productos misceláneos—tales como galactita, mica, feldspato, sílica, asfalto, amianto, grafito, esteatita, magnesita, piedra caliza para fusión de hierro, bauxita, monazita—el valor total aumentó en un año de $3,565,116 á $4,105,898. El valor de amianto importado en los Estados Unidos, principalmente del Canadá, ascendió á $300,533, contra $268,264 en 1897. El periódico "The Mineral Industry" da cuenta de los siguientes nuevos productos: Ferromolybdenum, 2,100 libras, valoradas á 50 centavos por libra; molybdenum, 9,550 libras, con un valor de $1.25 por libra, aproximadamente. Dice también la misma publicación que el platino que se produjo ascendió á 300 onzas Troy, contra 200 onzas Troy en 1897. El promedio de valor del platino en barra en Nueva York fué de $12.79 la onza, contra $12.34 en 1897. Según la publicación de la Oficina Geológica atrás mencionada, había en el mercado de San Francisco 150 onzas Troy de platino crudo en 1897, valoradas en $900, y 225 onzas Troy en 1898, valoradas en $1,913, ó sea algo más de $8.50 la onza.

COMERCIO PAN-AMERICANO.

La publicación conocida con el nombre de "Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance of the United States," correspondiente al mes de julio de 1899, y que da á luz la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda, contiene un artículo sobre el comercio de los Estados Unidos con los países americanos que quedan al sur, comercio que, según dicha publicación manifiesta, ha sido por largo tiempo objeto de mucha solicitud para estadístas, economistas y hombres de negocios.

Según se ve por las estadísticas, el comercio de los Estados Unidos con los pueblos de raza inglesa que ocupan la parte septentrional del continente americano, ha aumentado rápidamente para beneficio mutuo. Con los pueblos de otra raza, que quedan al sur de los Estados Unidos, el tráfico no ha sido tan satisfactorio, y su valor disminuye á medida que la distancia aumenta. La América inglesa recibe de los Estados Unidos el 59 por ciento de lo que importa para su consumo. México, que también es un país adyacente, pero que habla otra lengua, recibe solamente 49 por ciento. La América Central, que viene en seguida, y con la cual hay fácil comunicación por agua y la habrá más tarde por

ferrocarril, recibe el 37 por ciento; Colombia, que queda algo más lejos, pero que es igualmente accesible por agua, el 33 por ciento; Venezuela, igualmente accesible, el 27 por ciento; las Antillas el 20 por ciento; la Guayana inglesa el 35 por ciento; la Guayana holandesa el 17 por ciento, y la Guayana francesa menos del 6 por ciento. Hasta la fecha, el crecimiento del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y otros países americanos es bastante satisfactorio, aunque se debe convenir en que era natural esperar un tráfico mayor con países que quedan tan inmediatos á este, especialmente en vista del hecho de que los Estados Unidos les compran mucho más de lo que les venden.

En 1897 el Brasil importó mercancías por valor de más de $105,000,000, de cuya cantidad los Estados Unidos no suplieron más de 12 por ciento. El Uruguay y el Paraguay importaron por valor de $22,000,000, de lo cual 7 por ciento fué de los Estados Unidos. La importación de la República Argentina ascendió á $95,000,000, y de esta cantidad menos de 7 por ciento correspondió á los Estados Unidos. En la costa del Pacífico la importación de Chile fué valorado en $24,000,000, la del Perú en $8,500,000, la de Bolivia en $11,600,000 y la del Ecuador en $7,000,000, y de todo esto solamente le toco á los Estados Unidos el 10 por ciento. Los países septentrionales de la América del Sur bañados por el Mar Caribe importan mercancías por valor de $36,000,000, y de esta cantidad los Estados Unidos sólo envían el 25 por ciento. Los países que quedan sobre la costa oriental importan por valor de $222,000,000; los de la costa occidental $51,000,000 y la cantidad que en este tráfico corresponde á los Estados Unidos es como el 10 por ciento.

Si se examina la clase de artículos que los Estados Unidos importan de la América Central y del Sur, aparece más anómala la falta de reciprocidad en el tráfico. Los Estados Unidos compran al Brasil y á México sus dos productos principales, que son el café y el hule, en mayor escala que ningún otro país. También importan considerables cantidades de la República Argentina y de Chile, y ofrecen á la América del Sur en general excelente mercado para sus azúcares, especias, frutas, maderas de tinte y otros productos tropicales. En el año económico de 1897, los Estados Unidos importaron de los países que quedan sobre el Atlántico y el Pacífico productos por valor de $88,408,119, mientras que solamente les vendieron en el mismo espacio de tiempo mercancías valoradas en $24,480,013. Á pesar de que en 1898 los Estados Unidos vendieron á todo el mundo una cantidad de mercancías más del doble de lo que compraron, sus ventas á los países sudamericanos, excepto los que quedan sobre el Mar Caribe, no fueron sino una tercera parte de la cantidad que les compraron. Á las repúblicas de la América Central, á Colombia y Venezuela, países bañados por el Caribe, y entre cuyos puertos y los de los Estados Unidos hay, comparativamente hablando, frecuente comunicación por vapor, el aumento de la exportación ha sido bastante satisfactorio, pero por lo que hace á las otras repúblicas sudamericanas, la situación se vuelve cada año más desfavorable.

Con la mira de combatir este estado de cosas, el BOLETÍN MENSUAL de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha publicado de tiempo en tiempo artículos destinados á llamar la atención de los comerciantes sudamericanos á la preponderancia de que gozan las manufacturas y productos de los Estados Unidos en los mercados europeos y otros, esperando fomentar así el comercio recíproco en América. Los informes obtenidos sobre lo que se importa en los países latino-americanos demuestran que las necesidades de aquellos mercados podrían ser fácilmente suplidas por los Estados Unidos, si hubiera más facilidades de transporte. Esto demuestra las ventajas que reportarían los Estados Unidos, especialmente en cuanto á su tráfico con la costa occidental de la América del Sur, si se construyera un canal por el istmo, acerca del cual se publicaron detalles minuciosos y mapas en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de setiembre de 1897, páginas 323–337. El contraste entre las distancias que ahora se atraviesen para hacer el tráfico entre las secciones orientales y meridionales de los Estados Unidos con los países que quedan al Pacífico, y las que habría que atravesar una vez construido el canal interoceánico, es muy notable, como lo ha señalado en varias ocasiones la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas.

El hecho de que el Istmo de Panamá queda casi directamente al sur de los puertos del Atlántico de los Estados Unidos, y de que en el tráfico con la costa occidental de la América del Sur hay que viajar hacia el oriente por una distancia de 2,600 millas y después hacia el poniente por una distancia igual antes de llegar á dicha costa, pone de manifiesto la pérdida de tiempo y los gastos que ocasiona un viaje á los puertos de repúblicas hermanas, á diferencia de lo que sucedería si existiera un canal á través del istmo.

Sin embargo, y á pesar de que los medios de transporte que ahora existen son insuficientes, el tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y las otras Repúblicas americanas podría aumentarse por medio de mutuas concesiones arancelarias, que afectarían poco ó nada las rentas de los países interesados.

CONDICIÓN DE LAS PRINCIPALES COSECHAS EN SETIEMBRE.

El informe del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos da los siguientes datos sobre las cosechas hasta el 1° de setiembre de 1899: maíz, 85.2; trigo, 70.9; avena, 87.2; centeno, 82; algodón, 68.5; trigo sarraceno, 75.2; patatas, 86.3. Hubo una reducción de 4.7 puntos en el maíz en el mes de agosto, pero la condición de este artículo el 1° de setiembre de este año era 1.1 punto más alta que el 1° de setiembre de 1898, y 2.9 puntos más elevada que el promedio medio durante los últimos diez años. La condición del trigo de invierno y de primera era de 70.9, contra 86.6 en la misma fecha de 1898, y contra 82.5, que fué el promedio durante el mes de setiembre por diez años. El Departamento no hará cálculos cuantitativos sobre la cosecha de trigo, mientras no se hayan revisado los datos referentes á los Estados del noroeste y á los del

declive del Pacífico. La condición media de la avena fué 87.2, contra 79 el 1° de setiembre de 1898, y contra 80, que fué el promedio medio en el espacio de diez años. El promedio de la cebada fué de 86.7 el 1° de setiembre de este año, 79.2 el 1° de setiembre de 1898, y 84.1 el promedio medio durante diez años. El promedio del centeno fué 82, contra 89.4 el 1° de setiembre de 1898, y contra 87.5 el promedio durante diez años. En cuanto al trigo sarraceno, los promedios para 1899 y 1898 fueron 75.2 y 88.8, respectivamente, y el promedio medio por diez años fué de 88.

Hubo una baja considerable en la condición del algodón en el mes de agosto, debido á la sequía en la región donde este artículo se produce. En aquellos lugares donde las lluvias se localizaron fueron tan recias que empeoraron la situación. El promedio, por tanto, fué solamente de 68.5 el 1° de setiembre de 1899, contra 79.8 en 1898, y contra 78.4, que fué el promedio durante diez años. Hubo un adelanto de 5 puntos en la condición de la caña de azúcar en el Estado de Louisiana, sin cambios de importancia en otras secciones. El promedio en la condición de las patatas fué de 86.3, ó sean 9.3 puntos sobre el promedio en el mes de setiembre durante diez años. Por lo que hace á otros productos, ha habido pocos ó ningunos cambios desde el mes de agosto.

ASUNTOS POSTALES.

El Departamento de Correos ha adoptado un nuevo tipo para los giros postales del interior, que se comenzó á usar el 4 de setiembre de 1899 y que se irá empleando á medida que los antiguos esqueletos se agoten en las estafetas de correo del país. El nuevo tipo de giro postal es más pequeño que el antiguo, siendo sus dimensiones casi iguales á las de los giros comerciales de uso corriente. Tiene dos adjuntos; uno es el aviso ó la notificación que da la oficina de correos que hace el giro, y que se envía al administrador de correos contra quien se ha girado, y el otro que es el recibo que la oficina que hace el giro debe entregar á aquél que envía los fondos. La notificación de que se ha hablado no es más que una reproducción del giro, hecha por medio de un papel de carbón. Al respaldo del giro hay un espacio para los sellos de los bancos por los cuales pase, en caso de necesidad.

Por cuanto se refiere á su forma y dimensiones, el nuevo tipo de giro postal se crée que sea muy superior al que hasta ahora había usado el Departamento de Correos, pues se puede usar lo mismo que cualquier otro documento comercial, cambio que los bancos y las casas de comercio en general sabrán apreciar en su justo valor.

El sistema de giros postales en los Estados Unidos se puso en práctica en 1864, para cuya época el número de estafetas pagadoras alcanzaba á 419. Hoy han llegado á ser estas agencias de cambio indispensables, y su número alcanza á cerca de 30,000. El número de giros postales para el interior remitidos durante el último año fiscal pasó de 30,000,000, que representaban un valor de $210,000,000. El sistema se uso más generalmente para enviar dinero de un lugar á otro, en los cuales no se

pueden conseguir con facilidad giros bancarios. Al paso que este sistema aumenta las transacciones entre los grandes centros de población, su utilidad especial es proveer los medios de remitir dinero de una manera segura y barata á los lugares en donde no podrían subsistir con éxito otras agencias de cambio.

La primera convención de paquetes postales celebrada entre los Estados Unidos y un país europeo puede decirse que es un hecho casi consumado. El Administrador General de Correos (Ministro del ramo) y el Enviado especial de Alemania, Dr. MUMM VON SCHWARZENSTEIN firmaron el 25 de agosto la dicha convención, que comenzará á regir el 1º de octubre. Según las estipulaciones, se podrán transportar por correo mercancías cuyo peso no exceda de 11 libras. El franqueo de los bultos que vayan de los Estados Unidos á Alemania se fija en 12 centavos por libra ó fracción, y el de las mercancías que por este medio vengan de Alemania pagarán en el punto de expedición 2 marcos 40 pfennigs por bulto, sea cual fuese su peso; pero puede adoptarse el franqueo de 1 marco 60 pfennigs para los bultos que no pesen más de un kilogramo, ó sea 2 libras 3 onzas. En dicho convenio queda establecida la estipulación concerniente á declaración y pago de derechos de aduana. Esta convención se ha venido negociando y estudiando desde 1885.

NO APLICACIÓN DE LOS TRATADOS DE RECIPROCIDAD Á LAS COLONIAS.

La Junta de Clasificación de la Oficina General de Avalúos de los Estados Unidos en la última semana de agosto decidió que, á menos que las posesiones coloniales de aquellos países que tienen celebrados tratados de reciprocidad con los Estados Unidos estén particularmente mencionadas en ellos, no tienen derecho á gozar de los beneficios que dichos tratados reportan. El caso que dió margen á la decisión fué la cuestión del derecho que debía cobrarse sobre un ron importado de Martinica.

El administrador de la aduana le impuso el derecho de ley y el importador protestó, reclamando que el ron importado debía admitirse con rebaja de derechos según el convenio de reciprocidad vigente con Francia. La junta arguyó que como el convenio de reciprocidad en cuestión no se refiere á las colonias francesas, sino que dice únicamente "los productos de Francia" debe concluirse de aquí que al particularizar éstos quedan excluidos los otros, y que de consiguiente las colonias de Francia no tienen derecho á gozar de las ventajas que ofrece el convenio. La junta crée que esta manera de interpretar la ley es tanto más razonable cuanto que se debe tener en cuenta la política que hoy siguen muchos países de extender sus posesiones coloniales á partes distantes del mundo y permitir que los colonos hagan leyes locales de aplicación exclusiva en los territorios adquiridos.

PROSPERIDAD DE HAWAII.

El primer año de la dominación de los Estados Unidos en las Islas de Hawaii ha sido muy próspero, según se ve por la comparación de las entradas y gastos del Gobierno, así como por lo que han producido las aduanas durante los últimos seis meses del año fiscal que terminó el 30 de julio de 1899. Los datos estadísticos fueron recibidos por el Departamento de Estado y transmitidos al Ministerio de Hacienda el 25 de agosto. Dichos datos muestran que las entradas durante el mes de julio de 1899 ascendieron á $207,215, contra $184,798 en el mes de julio de 1898. Los gastos durante dicho mes en 1899 fueron de $172,381, contra $234,909 en julio de 1898. Se ve, pues, que hubo disminución en los gastos y aumento en las entradas. Los gastos, sin embargo, se elevaron, con motivo de un fondo de amortización de un impréstito, á un total de $212,272, contra $261,278 en julio de 1898. La deuda total de las islas es ahora de $4,635,199, contra $4,449,617 que era hace un año.

Mr. RICHARD IVES, Administrador General de Aduanas de las Islas, informa que las entradas de aduanas en todos los puertos, desde junio próximo pasado, fueron como sigue: por importaciones de los Estados Unidos, $1,412,658; por importaciones de otros paises, $384,494. Esto es casi un aumento de ciento por ciento sobre las entradas en junio de 1896, cuando las cifras correspondientes á las anteriores fueron $599,303 y $283,995, respectivamente. Las entradas totales durante los primeros seis meses de 1899 fueron de $8,330,294, contra $4,714,143 durante los primeros seis meses de 1898.

PROVISIÓN DE CAFÉ PARA EL EJÉRCITO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

La Proveeduría del Ejército de los Estados Unidos ha tomado una medida para aliviar los sufrimientos de los habitantes de la isla de Puerto Rico, que, aunque no es mirada como un acto de caridad, hará mucho en favor de dicho pueblo. Se anuncia que el Comisario General ha dado orden á sus subalternos en todo el país de que compren café de Puerto Rico para el uso del ejército en la isla. De esta manera se utilizará dicho producto, y el dinero que se pague por él irá á Puerto Rico. Desde que terminó la guerra entre los Estados Unidos y España los agricultores portorriqueños no han podido vender tanto café como antes, porque España tomaba siempre la mayor parte de la cosecha. El terrible huracán de estos últimos días destruyó innumerables cafetos y una gran parte del café que estaba ya almacenado, pero se cree que aun queda suficiente cantidad para que los productores obtengan considerables ganancias.

EL PRECIO MÁS BAJO DEL CAFÉ.

El precio más bajo á que se ha vendido el café "por llegar" se notó el 7 de setiembre de este año, cuando el que debe ser entregado en octubre se vendió en el mercado de Nueva York á 4.40 centavos por

libra. Antes de esta fecha, el precio más bajo había sido 4.55 centavos en junio por café que debía ser entregado en julio. El precio más elevado que se ha visto durante diez y siete años fué de 22.25 centavos la libra, en junio de 1887, por café que debía entregarse en diciembre. El precio al contado de café brasileño el 7 de setiembre era 5.625 centavos por libra, ó sea un octavo de centavo menos que en cualquiera otra época anterior. Los precios bajos que ahora existen se deben á la enorme producción del mundo, y á la esperanza de que la nueva cosecha será de 11,000,000 sacos. El aumento en la oferta durante el mes de agosto fué de 890,500 sacos, que es el mayor que se ha notado en un solo mes. La cantidad de café disponible en los mercados del mundo el 1° de setiembre de este año era de 7,659,500 sacos de 132 libras cada uno.

LAS RENTAS DE LAS FILIPINAS.

Con fecha 26 de agosto de 1899, el Ministerio de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos publicó un informe relativo á las rentas de las Islas Filipinas desde que fueron ocupadas por los Estados Unidos hasta el 31 de julio de 1899. Las entradas de todas clases ascendieron á $5,249,411. Dichas entradas se dividen entre los diferentes puertos de esta manera: Manila, $3,848,248; Iloilo, $265,360; Zebú, $156,136.

NOTAS DIVERSAS.

La producción de azúcar de remolacha en los Estados Unidos para la cosecha de 1899–1900, según una autoridad reconocida en la materia, se calcula en 119,000 toneladas, como sigue: California, 53,000 toneladas; Michigan, 31,500; Nebraska, 9,000; Utah, 7,500; Nueva York, 3,000; y el resto dividido entre los otros Estados.

La cosecha de caña de azúcar en el Hawaii, se ha recogido ya casi toda, habiendo comenzado los embarques de azúcar para los Estados Unidos. La estación ha sido favorable para los trabajos en las plantaciones y la cosecha se calcula que sobrepasará á la de 1898 en una cantidad que varía de 25,000 á 30,000 toneladas. Dícese que se han contratado 19 buques cuya capacidad reunida alcanza á 39,630 toneladas para traer el azúcar del las Islas Hawaias á las refinerías de Nueva York y Filadelfia. La mayor parte de la zafra irá á San Francisco para ser refinada.

El vapor inglés "Puritan" zarpó de Filadelfia el 8 de agosto, llevando la carga más grande que jamás ha salido de un puerto de los Estados Unidos. Consistía de 40 locomotoras "Baldwin," con sus correspondientes "tenders," y de 18 puentes de acero para el Ferrocarril Oriental de la China, además de varias toneladas de mercancías diversas de los Estados Unidos.

Tres de los buques mercantes más grandes del mundo están en vía de construcción ó se han contratado para ser fabricados en los Estados Unidos. El "California," que se construirá en el astillero de la "Union Iron Works" de San Francisco, tendrá 450 pies de eslora, 51 pies de manga y 12,000 toneladas de desplazamiento, con una capacidad de 8,250

toneladas de carga. Este buque es para la compañía de vapores llamada "American Hawaiian." Los otros dos buques serán construidos para la línea de la "Mala del Pacífico" en Newport News, Virginia. Estos buques tendrán 550 pies de eslora y 18,500 toneladas de desplazamiento.

URUGUAY.

VALOR DEL TRÁFICO CON ALEMANIA.

En una comunicación dirigida al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington con fecha 22 de junio de 1899, Mr. JAMES C. MONAGHAN, Cónsul-General en Chemnitz, Alemania, dice que los periódicos alemanes anuncian que el Uruguay y la Alemania han convenido en continuar traficando sobre las bases del tratado de comercio y navegación celebrado el 30 de junio de 1892. Según este tratado, cada Gobierno goza de los derechos de la nación más favorecida. El Cónsul agrega, sin embargo, que la Alemania consiente en que gocen de las concesiones especiales los ciudadanos y las mercancías del Brasil, la República Argentina y el Paraguay.

En el informe del Cónsul se dan los siguientes datos estadísticos: en 1897 la Alemania importó del Paraguay mercancías por valor de $2,570,000. De esta cantidad, $1,569,134 fueron por extractos de carne, respecto de los cuales no había concesiones arancelarias. El valor de las pieles y de la lana de ovejas ascendió á $688,296. La exportación de la Alemania al Uruguay en el mismo año tuvo un valor de $1,321,852, y no sufrió á causa de derechos diferenciales, porque el Uruguay no tiene convenios arancelarios con otros paises. Hasta la fecha no se han establecido en el Uruguay industrias dignas de mencionarse, y solamente la agricultura se ha desarrollado. Entre los artículos de importación, las telas de diferentes clases ocupan un lugar prominente. La nación que pueda enviar mercancías baratas, buenas y adaptables á las necesidades del Uruguay, dominará el mercado de ese país.

PROYECTADA EXHIBICIÓN DE PRODUCTOS PORTUGUESES.

Junto con una comunicación fechada en Montevideo el 11 de julio de 1899, el Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, Ministro de los Estados Unidos, envió al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington la traducción de un editorial de un periódico de aquella ciudad, en el que se trata de los propuestos tratados de reciprocidad entre el Portugal y el Uruguay, y entre aquel Reino y la República Argentina. Como un medio de aumentar el comercio portugués, parece que se trata de establecer una exhibición anual de productos del Portugal en algún punto conveniente del Río de la Plata.

VENEZUELA.

IMPORTACIONES PROVENIENTES DE NUEVA YORK EN JULIO DE 1899.

Según el informe del Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, Cónsul-General de Venezuela en Nueva York, las exportaciones hechas de dicho puerto para Venezuela durante el mes de julio del año corriente mostraron gran aumento en comparación con las del mismo mes en 1898. El valor total de las mercancías compradas para Venezuela en el mes de julio de este año fué de $373,701, y además de esto, $90,000 en moneda de oro fueron enviados á La Guaira. En julio de 1898 el valor total de las mercancías remitidas de Nueva York á Venezuela fué solamente de $161,459, lo cual muestra que ha habido un aumento de más de $300,000 en 1899. Entre los principales artículos exportados, figuran harina, valorada en $61,684; manteca de puerco, $70,683; cereales, $31,721; indianas, $15,978; drogas y perfumería, $24,488; maquinaria, $21,783; alambre de púas, $6,334.

El Señor ZUMETA, Secretario del Cónsul-General, se muestra muy satisfecho con la condición del tráfico, y agrega que abriga esperanzas de que será mayor en el mes de agosto, época en que se podrán obtener datos completos. La demanda por harina de los Estados Unidos va en aumento, y en julio se exportaron 21,714 barriles. El alambre de púas ha figurado siempre en lugar muy prominente en el tráfico con Venezuela, por razón de que se están cultivando nuevos terrenos en considerable escala, y con dicho alambre se hace la mejor cerca que se conoce. La exportación de maquinaria no fué muy grande, pero se asegura que algunas casas de los Estados Unidos han recibido últimamente de Venezuela pedidos considerables, que abrazan aparatos eléctricos, máquinas de vapor, maquinaria para hacer hielo y carros, todo lo cual será remitido dentro de pocos meses.

DERECHOS SOBRE EL TABACO.

Mr. W. W. RUSSELL, Secretario de la Legación de los Estados Unidos en Caracas, informó al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington, con fecha 22 de julio de 1899, que el 21 del mismo mes los derechos sobre el tabaco habían sido elevados, de suerte que en la actualidad son como sigue:

(1) Papel para cigarrillos, cortado ó sin cortar, 24 bolívares ($4.63) por kilogramo, peso neto.

(2) Tabaco en forma de cigarrillos, sea cualquiera la capa, 7.50 bolívares ($1.44) por kilogramo, peso neto.

(3) Tabaco retorcido ó cualquier clase de tabaco de mascar, 5 bolívares (96 centavos) por kilogramo, peso neto.

(4) Tabaco labrado ó preparado en cualquiera forma no especificada, 5 bolívares (96 centavos) por kilogramo, peso neto.

Durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, Venezuela importó de los Estados Unidos tabaco y sus manufacturas por valor de $87,486, y en 1898 la importación del mismo artículo fué valorada en $77,080.

NUEVO MINISTRO DE NICARAGUA.

El día 11 del mes corriente el Señor Don LUIS F. COREA fué recibido oficialmente por el Presidente MCKINLEY como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. El Señor COREA había ya representado á su país en Wáshington como Encargado de Negocios, y su promoción al elevado puesto que ahora ocupa es mirada como una recompensa justa de los notables servicios que ha prestado á su patria. Es el Señor COREA uno de los miembros más jóvenes del cuerpo diplomatico de Wáshington, pues tiene apenas 35 años de edad. Durante su corta pero distinguida rrera pública ha desempeñado cargos de importancia, no solo en Nicaragua sino también en Guatemala, donde ha pasado una gran parte de su vida. Fué en la famosa universidad de la ciudad de Guatemala donde hizo sus estudios de derecho, y hoy figura entre los primeros abogados de la América Central. El Señor COREA ha sido también nombrado representante diplomático de su país ante el Gobierno de Chile, y á su debido tiempo pasará á Santiago, capital de aquella república, á presentar sus credentiales.

Á continuación se leerán los discursos que se pronunciaron al ser recibido el Señor COREA en su nuevo carácter:

DISCURSO DEL SEÑOR COREA.

"SEÑOR PRESIDENTE: Es muy satisfactorio y honroso para mí poner en manos de Vuestra Excelencia la carta que me acredita como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América.

"Mi Gobierno, al elevar su representación en Wáshington al más alto rango que Nicaragua tiene establecido en su cuerpo diplomatico, se ha propuesto demostrar los sentimientos de confraternidad que le animan hacia este país, al mismo tiempo que mantener y estrechar más, si cabe, los lazos de amistad que de antiguo han unido á ambas Repúblicas.

"Estoy seguro que el Gobierno de Vuestra Excelencia participa de iguales sentimientos, y que ello habrá de facilitar el desempeño de la misión que se me ha encomendado y redundar en provecho de ambas naciones, principalmente el día—que ojalá no esté lejano—en que á favor de esta comunidad de propósitos se abran nuevos rumbos al comercio, base de la prosperidad de los pueblos.

"Cooperar á la realización de tan laudable fin y merecer en el desempeño de mi elevado cargo las consideraciones que el Gobierno de Vues-

tra Excelencia se ha dignado de dispensarme en mi carácter de Encargado de Negocios, son mis mejores deseos, y á su logro consagraré todos mis esfuerzos.

"Permitidme, Señor Presidente, que para concluir, manifieste á Vuestra Excelencia los votos sinceros que el Gobierno y pueblo de Nicaragua hacen por la prosperidad y el bienestar de los Estados Unidos y por la ventura personal de Vuestra Excelencia; votos á los cuales me uno con el entusiasmo que me inspiran las liberales instituciones de este gran pueblo y la sabiduría de su Gobierno."

CONTESTACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

"SEÑOR MINISTRO: Me es grato recibir de vuestras manos la carta del Presidente de Nicaragua que os acredita como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de aquella república ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

"Las estrechas relaciones que existen entre el Gobierno y pueblo de los Estados Unidos y las repúblicas vecinas del hemisferio occidental, así como el deseo que siempre hemos tenido de mantener entre ellas y nuestro país amistad sincera, mutua confianza y lucrativo comercio, han inducido á los Estados Unidos á establecer misiones plenipotenciarias en las capitales de las diversas naciones latino-americanas y á dar cordial bienvenida á las que aquellas repúblicas nos envían.

"Al recibiros en vuestro elevado carácter, permitidme aseguraros que celebro la promoción con que se os ha distinguido, porque una larga permanencia entre nosotros y las buenas relaciones que habéis conservado con la administración, os han hecho conocer los intereses de ambas naciones, así como sus miras respectivas, al mismo tiempo que os han granjeado la estimación de este Gobierno y la de mis conciudadanos.

"Recibo, por tanto, con la mayor satisfacción vuestra promesa de que cooperaréis en cuanto os sea posible para llevar á la práctica los sentimientos amistosos y cordiales que animan á los Estados Unidos y á Nicaragua.

"Os deseo, Señor Ministro, el éxito más completo, y os ruego que hagais presente al Gobierno y pueblo de Nicaragua mis sentimientos y los de mis compatriotas en favor de la felicidad, bienestar y progreso de vuestro país por la senda de la paz."

EXPOSICIÓN DE ARTÍCULOS DE EXPORTACIÓN EN FILADELFIA.

La Exposición Nacional de Artículos de Exportación fué inaugurada en Filadelfia el 14 de setiembre de 1899 al mediodía. Gran cantidad de personas de todas partes del país, incluyendo representantes diplomáticos, oficiales del Ejército y de la Armada, hombres de ciencias, de negocios y profesionales, estuvieron presentes en la ceremonia.

Mr. W. W. FOULKROD pronunció un discurso, ofreciendo la Exposición al Gobernador del Estado. El Director-General, Mr. W. P. WILSON, también pronunció otro sobre "la Idea Primitiva, los Propósitos, el Plan y las Alcances de la Exposición." Se expresó en parte como sigue:

"El objeto de esta Exposición es mostrar al consumidor extranjero lo que puede hacer el fabricante americano, y cuán barato y bueno es lo que produce. Los gobiernos de todo el mundo han sido invitados y han aceptado la invitación que se les hizo para que enviaran delegados; las principales cámaras de comercio de todos los países, cuerpos organizados que dirigen los asuntos comerciales de las diferentes naciones, han sido invitadas y han aceptado la invitación, y además 20,000 de los más prominentes comerciantes han sido también invitados á que aprovechen la oportunidad de venir á ver las más notables producciones de la industria americana congregadas en Filadelfia, y ellos igualmente han aceptado la invitación de visitar la Exposición Nacional de Artículos de Exportación."

El Gobernador STONE contestó con un discurso en que dió la bienvenida á las personas presentes, y aceptando el ofrecimiento de la Exposición, que á su vez ofreció al Corregidor de Filadelfia. Este funcionario aceptó la Exposición, y el Diputado W. P. HEPBURN, de Iowa, Presidente de la Comisión de Comercio Extranjero y Entre los Estados de la Cámara de Diputados, pronunció el discurso de inauguración. Al terminar la ceremonia, se informó al Presidente por telégrafo que la Exposición estaba lista para que él la declarara abierta. El Presidente dirigió inmediatamente el telegrama siguiente:

"La apertura de la Exposición Nacional de Artículos de Exportación marca otro importante y satisfactorio progreso en la extensión de nuestro comercio y en el fomento de relaciones más cordiales á este respecto con otras naciones. Envío á vos y á vuestros asociados mis más sinceras congratulaciones, y la expresión de mis mejores deseos porque se realicen por completo todos vuestras esperanzas en cuanto al éxito de esta empresa y á la influencia que debe ejercer."

Este telegrama fué leído por el Vicepresidente FOULKROD, después de lo cual anunció que el Presidente MCKINLEY, que en aquel momento estaba en la Casa Blanca, tocaría la llave del telégrafo en Wáshington, estableciendo comunicación con el instrumento que estaba sobre el tablado, y manifestando de esta manera que tomaba participación en la ceremonia. Todo lo cual se hizo, y durante el momentario silencio que reinó, se oyó á considerable distancia del tablado el ruido del instrumento.

Á continuación la Exposición fué declarada abierta al público, y la visitaron durante el día 25,000 personas.

COMERCIO DE LA GRAN BRETAÑA CON TODA LA AMÉRICA.

Los datos estadísticos que á continuación se publican sobre el comercio de la Gran Bretaña con las repúblicas americanas, así como con sus posesiones en el continente occidental, durante los primeros seis meses de 1899, han sido tomados de la publicación titulada "Accounts Relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom" (Informe respecto del Comercio y la Navegación del Reino Unido), correspondiente al mes de julio de 1899. En los cuadros contenidos en este informe las importaciones aparecen generalmente como provenientes del país donde se hicieron los embarques directamente para el Reino Unido. En la mayor parte de los casos, el país de procedencia es también el país de origen, pero en aquéllos que no tienen costa, como Bolivia, esto no es posible. Por regla general las exportaciones se asignan á los paises de último destino, según lo declaran los exportadores en sus entradas de aduana, y en esto Bolivia es también una excepción. Las divisiones de las costas de los diferentes países en orientales y occidentales son las que han establecido en Inglaterra las autoridades en materia de estadística. Con el fin de hacer comparaciones, se dan tambíen los totales para 1898:

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIÓN.		
Estados Unidos:		
Costa del Atlántico	£61,995,214	£65,467,818
Costa del Pacífico	2,076,343	3,261,296
Total	64,071,557	68,729,114
Cuba y Puerto Rico	15,188	17,192
Canadá:		
Costa del Atlántico	4,783,968	4,478,780
Costa del Pacífico	368,071	612,891
Terranova y Labrador	100,515	70,986
Las Bermudas	866	766
Las Antillas:		
Inglesas	1,039,496	904,088
Francesas	216	63
Holandesas	11,003	13,974
Danesas	93	8,836
Haití y Santo Domingo	36,698	53,444
México	227,801	147,755
Guatemala	133,920	270,692
Honduras	900	4,965
Belize (Honduras inglesa)	82,360	95,911
Salvador	70,711	184,397
Nicaragua	23,686	58,315
Costa Rica	254,273	543,163
Colombia	457,373	388,801
Venezuela	22,809	19,648
Guayana:		
Inglesa	193,452	303,257
Holandesa	24,414	19,251
Ecuador	58,561	100,579
Perú	640,990	733,170
Chile (incluyendo la costa de Patagonia al Pacífico)	2,244,215	1,990,060
Brasil	2,157,548	2,362,705
Uruguay	155,038	165,427
República Argentina (incluyendo la costa de Patagonia al Atlántico)	5,365,232	4,854,019
Islas Falkland (Malvinas)	101,281	109,670
Total para toda la América	82,642,235	87,241,919

	1899.	1898.
EXPORTACIÓN.		
Estados Unidos:		
Costa del Atlántico	£7,787,687	£7,236,041
Costa del Pacífico	225,752	202,914
Cuba y Puerto Rico	463,526	119,423
Canadá:		
Costa del Atlántico	2,925,889	2,591,935
Costa del Pacífico	154,285	162,179
Terranova y Labrador	164,637	137,219
Las Bermudas	45,476	48,898
Antillas:		
Inglesas	875,833	903,775
Francesas	49,182	36,948
Holandesas	15,009	13,167
Danesas	16,487	25,312
Haití y Santo Domingo	130,267	74,921
México	934,983	822,060
Guatemala	21,434	10,855
Honduras	76,482	41,737
Belize (British Honduras)	22,966	29,694
Salvador	76,482	41,737
Nicaragua	58,832	38,183
Costa Rica	47,586	54,195
Colombia	361,518	374,301
Venezuela	360,619	186,040
Guayana:		
Inglesa	261,237	284,142
Francesa	1,202	936
Holandesa	18,423	21,110
Ecuador	176,111	159,236
Perú	409,161	384,078
Chile (incluyendo la costa occidental de Patagonia)	844,895	821,780
Brasil	2,523,457	2,774,085
Uruguay	618,258	542,187
Paraguay	4,749	4,522
República Argentina (incluyendo la costa oriental de Patagonia)	2,849,701	2,435,871
Islas Falkland (Malvinas)	12,231	9,549
Total para toda la América	2,534,357	20,589,030

HIELO ARTIFICIAL.

Esta industria ha alcanzado en los Estados Unidos un desarrollo verdaderamente asombroso, y ya el hielo artificial compite con el natural aun en los grandes ciudades del Norte. Es indudable que el primero es mucho más puro que el segundo, pues por medio de un aparato especial puede purificarse el agua que se emplea para hacerlo. Una de las grandes ventajas que ofrece el hielo manufacturado sobre el natural, es que se le fabrica en el mismo lugar donde se lo consume, y así se evitan los gastos de transporte y la merma que el artículo necesariamente sufre, pues es imposible impedir que se derrita más ó menos al llevarlo de una parte á otra. Se calcula que en esto solamente se pierde de un 20 á un 50 por ciento.

La fabricación de máquinas de hacer hielo ha llegado en los Estados Unidos á un alto grado de perfección, y las hay de todos tamaños y precios, desde las que cuestan cosa de $500 y hacen como una tonelada al día hasta las que cuestan millares de dollars y fabrican centenares de toneladas. Mientras mayor es la capacidad de la máquina, es menor el costo de la producción, pero aun aquellas que solamente producen una tonelada por día rinden buenas ganancias.

Es un hecho, por muchos ignorado, que el hielo artificial dura más que el natural, debido á su densidad, á la falta de aire y á lo bajo de la temperatura que se emplea en su fabricación. Dondequiera que se

le ha introducido, el hielo artificial está tomando el puesto del natural, y sabido es que en muchas de las grandes ciudades americanas varios de los que antes traficaban en hielo natural han comprado las fábricas de hielo artificial que les hacían competencia. La fabricación de hielo es un negocio muy lucrativo, y su tendencia es á crecer de día en día. No se registra un solo caso en que haya fracasado, é innumerables son los que pueden citarse en que, habiéndose iniciado en escala muy pequeña, se ha desarrollado en pocos años hasta asumir inmensas proporciones.

Si el hielo es una necesidad en todas partes, lo es especialmente en los países tropicales, y la importación de este artículo, que siempre exige gran costo y trabajo, es ya innecesaria, pues basta con una buena máquina, como las que se fabrican en muchas partes de los Estados Unidos, para satisfacer todas las necesidades. Ya en algunos países de la América latina se usan las máquinas americanas para la fabricación de hielo, y los resultados obtenidos parecen responder á las esperanzas de los que han invertido su capital en esa clase de empresas, por lo cual se cree que, andando el tiempo, el tráfico de hielo natural, que antes se hacía en gran escala con los países tropicales, cesará por completo y será sustuido con la introducción de máquinas para la fabricación de un artículo de tan absoluta necesidad.

Como un ejemplo de lo dicho, puede citarse á la república de Nicaragua, donde la fabricación de hielo, que hace pocos años era enteramente desconocida, ha alcanzado notable incremento, y hoy todas las principales poblaciones del país están provistas de excelente hielo fabricado por máquinas americanas.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

El primer número del periódico "Feilden's Magazine," nueva publicación inglesa, apareció el 1° de agosto. Es ésta una revista mensual, de carácter militante y esencialmente británico, publicada en Temple Chambers, Londres, y que, según su propio dicho, es "el órgano del progreso industrial del mundo." Al exponer las razones que ha tenido para dar á luz este periódico, el editor dice "que el desarrollo del comercio de una nación se debe en mucho á las publicaciones que sobre este asunto tratan, y que jamás se ha visto ese hecho mejor demostrado que en el caso de los Estados Unidos, donde indudablemente los excelentes periódicos mercantiles que allí existen han sido un gran factor en el progreso fenomenal de los negocios en dicho país." El artículo editorial es obra de Sir W. H. PREECE, K. C. B., F. R. S., y es un resumen de lo que ocurrió en la Conferencia de Ingenieros que últimamente se verificó en Londres. Resumiendo su revista sobre los trabajos de esta organización, el escritor dice:

"Esta conferencia ha producido por lo menos un beneficio, el de hacer comprender á nuestros ingenieros el peligro de la competencia extran-

jera, y el hecho de que no podemos seguir enorgulleciéndonos con la idea de nuestra supremecía comercial é industrial. Somos una nación necia y presumida y no vemos nuestros propios defectos. Alemania está siglos adelante de nosotros en cuanto á educación, y los Estados Unidos también están muy adelante de nosotros en la fabricación de maquinaria para economizar trabajo manual, en la creación de modelos, en el manejo de talleres y en métodos industriales. * * * El obrero en Inglaterra debe ser lo que es en los Estados Unidos, un miembro de la sociedad que lee, piensa, tiene conocimientos técnicos, se siente orgulloso de su propio trabajo y se deleita patrioticamente en el engrandecimiento de su país."

En julio de este año el Ministerio de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos publicó un volumen muy interesante que arroja mucha luz sobre la geografía y el clima de Alaska, acerca de lo cual, hasta en estos últimos años, se sabía muy poco. Como su título lo indica, el libro contiene "Los Informes sobre las Exploraciones en el Territorio de Alaska (la Bahía de Cook y los ríos Sushitna, Copper y Tanana), 1898," hechas de orden del Ministro de la Guerra, por el Capitán EDWIN F. GLENN, del 25 de Infantería, y por el Capitán W. R. ABERCROMBIE, del 2 de Infantería. Corroboran los informes de los oficiales superiores las observaciones de los Tenientes H. G. LEARNARD, del 14 de Infantería, J. C. CASTNER, del 4 de Infantería, P. G. LOWE, del 18 de Infantería, R. M. BROOKFIELD, del 2 de Infantería, GUY H. PRESTON, del 9 de Caballería, del Sargento de Caballería WILLIAM YANERT, y del Sargento FREDERICK H. MATHYS, del 14 de Infantería, de los Cabos ROBERT HAIDEN y ROBERT A. KOEHLER, del 14 de Infantería, del Agente Cuartel Maestre CHARLES BROWN, del Mayordomo del Hospital JOHN W. CLEAVE, de los guías JOHN S. BAGG y J. M. RAFFERTY, y de Mr. LUTHER S. KELLY. Todos estos informes se refieren á diferentes partes del país ó á diferentes aspectos de la expedición. Anexa á los informes hay una tabla de observaciones meteorológicas hechas en Puerto Valdez desde el 19 de abril de 1898 hasta el 18 de enero de 1899, con las debidas observaciones, y así mismo contiene el volumen un mapa cuidadosamente preparado, cuya escala es de 1 pulgada por 12½ millas.

El "Exporters and Importers Journal" correspondiente al 5 de agosto de este año contiene un artículo titulado "El Presidente Porfirio Díaz y México Moderno," con un excelente retrato de aquel funcionario. Después de un breve bosquejo sobre la historia del país en sus primeros años, y de una relación concisa de la vida del Presidente, el escritor llama la atención al progreso casi fenomenal de la República bajo el Gobierno actual, y termina con el siguiente significativo párrafo:

"Con un admirable Código Civil, estricta y honradamente puesto en práctica, con un excelente sistema de jurisprudencia y con una administración que se distinque por su inteligencia y probidad, la vida y la pro-

piedad gozan de toda protección. Con sus maravillosas riquezas que apenas comienzan á desarrollarse, con sus industrias cuyo porvenir es tan halagüeño, y libre de los peligros que acarrean alianzas extranjeras, la prosperidad de México en lo futuro puede considerarse como asegurada."

El periódico "The British Board of Trade Journal," correspondiente al mes de julio de 1899, contiene un resumen sobre "El Tráfico, Industria y Movimiento Marítimo de México," hecho con datos tomados principalmente de los varios informes de los funcionarios diplomáticos y consulares que representan al Reino Unido en aquella República. Ya se ha hecho mención además de los informes de los cónsules y agentes comerciales de los Estados Unidos al Gobierno en Wáshington. Los datos estadísticos, que corresponden principalmente á 1896 y 1897, y en los cuales el artículo abunda, son, en muchos casos, tomados de informes oficiales de Gobierno mexicano. El mapa que acompaña al texto marca los límites de los diferentes Estados, la situación de las principales ciudades y las diferentes vías férreas.

Uno de los cincuenta y dos manuales prácticos publicados en Paris, Rue Visconti No. 23, lleva este título: "Manual de Labores de Minas y Beneficio de Metales." Comienza con un tratado sobre la geología, en cuanto se relaciona con la industria minera, y contiene otros capítulos que tratan de la exploración y explotación de minas, de metalurgia y del ensayo de metales. En el apéndice de la obra se encuentran los códigos de minería de México, Chile, el Perú y la República Argentina.

La "Scientific Publishing Company," de Nueva York y Londres, ha publicado últimamente un volumen titulado "La Industria Mineral; su Estadística, Tecnología y Tráfico en los Estados Unidos y otros países, hasta fines de 1898." La obra, que ha sido editada por Mr. R. P. Bothwell, contiene 940 páginas y está hermosamente ilustrada. Es el séptimo tomo de la serie. El primero fué publicado en 1893, y contiene datos estadísticos para 1892 y los años precedentes, dando además un informe general acerca de la industria desde su origen. El tomo VII alcanza hasta 1898, tanto en lo relativo á datos estadísticos, como desde el punto de vista técnico é industrial.

Mr. L. Gentil Tippenhauer, de Port au Prince, ha publicado en Petermann's Mitteilungen (No. 7, 1899) una relación de su viaje á través de una parte de Haití, entre Gonaïves y Borgne, en 1896, como miembro de una comisión científica que fué á buscar depósitos de cinabrio, la cual, aunque no obtuvo el fin que se proponía, recogió muchos informes sobre la topografía y geología del país. Se descubrió la existencia de ciertos minerales, se hizo un estudio geológico completo y se preparó un mapa de una región que hasta entonces había sido casi desconocida.

El Honorable HORACE D. WASDEN, Jefe de la Oficina de Estadística del Trabajo en el Estado de Massachusetts, ha preparado para la publicación titulada "Statistics of Manufactures, 1898," un tratado sobre la industria textil, en el cual hace una revista histórica sobre el establecimiento de fábricas en el Estado de Massachusetts desde el año de 1643 hasta fines de 1898, junto con una relación acerca de la cosecha de algodón en el país desde 1791 hasta 1898. Da también la cantidad exportada y consumida durante cada año de este período. La cronología industrial es también muy valiosa, y toda la obra muestra que ha sido hecha con mucho cuidado y abilidad.

El periódico "The Bankers' Monthly," en su número correspondiente al mes de agosto de este año, contiene un artículo con este título: "El Uso de la Moneda de Oro," por el Honorable ELLIS H. ROBERTS, Tesorero de las Estados Unidos. Hay además en dicha publicación otro artículo titulado "El Banquero del Oeste," por C. W. STEVENSON, y otras producciones.

Una revista mensual, dedicada al arte fotográfica, y con el título de "El Fotógrafo Mexicano," contiene algunos artículos muy interesante sobre fotografía. Se publica en la ciudad de México.

El Dr. P. KRUGER ha publicado un informe completo, en el "Deutschen Nachrichten" de Valparaiso, correspondiente al 4 de mayo de 1899, sobre sus descubrimientos en el río Yelcho.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. SETEMBRO DE 1899. No. 3.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

EXPORTAÇÃO NO PRIMEIRO SEMESTRE DE 1899.

No numero da "Review of the River Plate" correspondente a 15 de Julho de 1899 se dá a estatistica da exportação da Argentina durante o primeiro semestre de 1899, para a Europa, America do Norte, Africa e o Brazil. Dessa relação se vê que tem havido notavel augmento na exportação de productos agricolas, a exportação do trigo accusando um augmento de 500,000 toneladas sobre a exportação do mesmo periodo de 1898; milho, um augmento de 70,000 toneladas; linhaça, 30,000 toneladas, e farinha de trigo 11,000 toneladas, ou o dobro da quantidade exportada o anno passado. O quebracho mostra um augmento de 30,000 toneladas, ou de 50 por cento.

Da quantidade total do trigo exportada (1,078,819 toneladas) a Belgica tomou 258,190 toneladas, seguindo-lhe a Grã Bretanha com 123,347 toneladas. Mas quasi a metade do total exportado (469,185 toneladas) classifica-se na rubrica geral "Ordens," não sendo indicado seu destino.

Do total de quebracho exportado (97,026 toneladas), a Allemanha tomou 39,638 toneladas, occupando este paiz tambem o primeiro lugar nas suas compras de couros de boi salgados, pois de um total de 606,217, tomou 291,415, seguindo-lhe a Belgica com 214,453. Os Estados Unidos offerecem os melhores mercados para os couros de boi seccos, pois de um total de 855,764, tomaram 484,660. Em geral nota-se uma diminuição na exportação de productos pastoris, taes como couros, pelles, animaes gelados, etc.

BRAZIL.

MANÁOS.

O Commandante C. C. TODD, em seu relatorio official sobre a viagem do *Wilmington* pelo rio Amazonas e seus tributarios, dirigido ao Governo dos Estados Unidos em data de 28 de Maio de 1899, exprime-se sobre a mais nova cidade da Amazonia do modo seguinte:

"A cidade de Manáos está situada na margem esquerda do Rio Negro a cinco milhas do ponto em que este une-se com o rio Solimões. É a capital do Estado do Amazonas e tem uma população de 30,000 a 40,000 habitantes. Devido ao seu commercio de exportação e importação e á extensão do territorio que lhe é tributario, constitue a segunda cidade em importancia do norte do Brazil, occupando o primeiro lugar a cidade do Pará. É o ponto de distribuição de artigos de commercio pelo territorio percorrido pelos rios Madeira, Purus, Jurua, Japara, Rio Negro e Javari. Nesta cidade se effectua a baldeação para os pequenos barcos da linha Amazonas, dos productos alimenticios e artigos que necessitam os seringueiros. Todos os artigos que se destinam á exportação teem de passar por aqui ou pela alfandega em Serpa. A receita dos Estados vem principalmente das exportações emquanto que os direitos de importação vão para o Governo Federal.

"A cidade de Manáos é illuminada á luz electrica, tem bonds electricos, obras hydraulicas e um bom serviço telephonico. Ha uma installação para a fabricação de gelo e estão se calçando as ruas com ladrilhos de Hastings. Si as condições commerciaes que existem na actualidade continuarem ou melhorarem, a cidade de Manáos terá um futuro brilhante. O porto ainda não tem os meios necessarios para despachar promptamente a grande quantidade de artigos recebidos, mas se crê que em breve o Governo Federal ou o do Estado votará verba para o seu melhoramento. Aqui, como nos outros portos brazileiros, um official da marinha serve como Capitão do Porto, geralmente com o grao de Commandante, quem representa o Governo Federal neste lugar. Ha falta de esgotos, mas se propõe inaugurar em breve um systema completo.

"Parece que a difficuldade que se tem de vencer aqui é a de um systema comprehensivo de melhoramentos publicos. A um proponente responsavel faz-se a concessão para uma obra de melhoramento, e a outro, outra, etc., sem considerar-se a possibilidade do conflicto de interesses e o beneficio que ultimamente resultará para a cidade quando todas essas obras forem concluidas. A cidade está situada em terra elevada que presta-se admiravelmente ao esgotamento. Até que fôr installado um bom systema de esgotos, as condições hygienicas, que na actualidade estão longe de ser satisfactorias, não podem ser melhoradas.

"Uma vantagem que tem o porto de Manáos é a falta quasi absoluta de corrente no Rio Negro, o que permitte a prompta descarga dos

navios a um custo minimo. Ha boias de atracação no porto para os grandes vapores que chegam aqui. * * * Fui informado de que, ha alguns annos, o Governo do Estado do Amazonas resolveu construir um systema de caes, acostaveis por navios de grande calado, mas o Governo Federal declarou que lhe pertencia o direito exclusivo de fazer este melhoramento que ainda não tem sido levado a cabo. Ha fortes inclinados de concreto que estendem-se da cidade até a margem do rio, assim dando facil accesso aos barcos que fazem communicação com os vapores no ancoradouro.

"Um agente consular representa o Governo Americano aqui, mas parece que, attendendo-se ao rapido desenvolvimento commercial desta cidade nos ultimos annos, e ao facto de que muito capital americano tem sido empregado n'ella, seria conveniente enviar um representante consular de grao superior."

MEXICO.

SITUAÇÃO ECONOMICA.

O Sr. LÉON SCHOENFELD, Vice-Consul da França em Tampico, Mexico, n'um relatorio que dirigiu ultimamente ao seu Governo, diz que a situação economica do Mexico está soffrendo modificações radicaes devido ao augmento que tem havido no commercio de exportação durante os ultimos annos. Chama a attenção para o valor do dollar mexicano, o qual, ha seis mezes, foi avaliado em 2 francos e 35 centimos, mas hoje cota-se a 2 francos e 51 centimos, e é a opinião dos banqueiros que chegará a 3 francos antes de terminar-se o anno.

O café mexicano, que em 1895 foi vendido facilmente a 30 piastres, tem diminuido a 15 e 18 piastres. O Sr. SCHOENFELD attribue essa diminuição á producção do Brazil, que basta para o consumo universal, e accrescenta o facto de que o cultivador brazileiro paga em papel-moeda á taxa cambial de 425 a 450 por cento, ao passo que o cultivador mexicano paga em piastres á taxa de 98 e 102 por cento. Aquelle pode vender com lucro seu producto em Nova York a sete dollares (ouro), emquanto que este, vendendo seu producto ao mesmo preço, o faz com prejuizo ou pelo menos não obtem lucros. Quanto á canna de assucar, exprime a opinião de que sua producção será remuneradora até que a quantidade produzida fôr em excesso do consumo local.

Noticias recebidas dos centros agricolas dizem que tem havido um augmento consideravel no preço das principaes colheitas como resultado da falta de braços. O valor do trabalho tende a augmentar constantemente. Referindo-se ás geadas que teem desolado a costa do Golfo desde Coatzacoalcos até Soto-la-Marina, diz que o prejuizo soffrido pelas colheitas na região entre Veracruz e Tuxpam é calculado em não menos de 9,000,000,000 piastres, e o vice-consul apprehende que este facto possa impedir o movimento de immigração que tem sido tão notavel desde 1894.

Crê o Sr. SCHOENFELD que o cultivo do café não pode dar resultados satisfactorios excepto para os cultivadores bem estabelecidos, e ainda assim, sómente no caso de que as plantações estejam na proximidade de estradas de ferro ou de rios navegaveis. A criação de gado, a exploração de minas nas costas e nas pequenas cadeias montanhosas e o cultivo dos cereaes são as industrias que promettem ser as principaes fontes de renda para a Republica. Quanto ao clima no Golfo, diz o Sr. SCHOENFELD que é incontestavelmente muito insalubre e só pessoas de constituição forte podem supportal-o. Seus effeitos, porem, podem ser resistidos seguindo um rigoroso regimen hygienico e occupando casas elevadas cerca de um metro do solo.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

RECURSOS MINERAES EM 1898.

Publicou-se em 22 de Agosto do anno corrente um resumo do relatorio vigesimo annual da Repartição Geologica, relativo a producção mineral dos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1898. Um exame das estatisticas demonstra que desde 1880 o valor total dos productos mineraes do paiz tem augmentado cerca de 90 por cento, ou seja de $369,319,000 a $697,880,002.

O augmento normal, segundo estes dados, durante os dezenove annos, tem sido na proporção de $18,000,000 annualmente, mas durante os cinco annos que teem decorrido desde 1893 o augmento tem sido de cerca de $25,000,000 ao anno. Emquanto que a proporção normal do augmento pode ter sido uma quantia que esteja comprehendida entre as duas que se acabam de citar, os totaes mostram grande irregularidade. De 1894 a 1895 o augmento foi de cerca de $100,000,000, e no anno seguinte foi só de pouco mais de $1,000,000, ao passo que de 1892 a 1894 houve uma diminuição de mais de $121,000,000, devida á depressão nos negocios. De 1896 a 1897 o augmento foi de cerca de $8,000,000, ou de 1.3 por cento, emquanto que de 1897 a 1898 o augmento foi de $66,970,534, ou mais de 2½ vezes a média do augmento annual de 1893 a 1898, e um augmento de cerca de 11 por cento sobre o valor da producção em 1897.

A producção total em 1898 foi a mais grande na historia do paiz, e excedeu á de 1892, que até então tinha occupado o primeiro lugar, em cerca de $50,000,000. Isto deve-se a um desenvolvimento geral na producção de mineraes, pois a dos principaes tem crescido notavelmente e em quasi todos os productos mineraes se nota um augmento.

A este respeito, convem fazer observar que os dados obtidos pelos compiladores do volume VII da obra intitulada "Mineral Industry," que é um livro que contem alguns centenares de paginas e que foi publicada pouco antes de que se publicára o relatorio do Governo, con-

cordam substancialmente com os dados officiaes. Ambos trabalhos mostram que os Estados Unidos foram por muito o primeiro paiz productor de ferro e aço no mundo em 1898, e occuparam o primeiro lugar, depois Grã Bretanha, na producção de carvão, tendo tambem produzido mais que a metade do cobre que se consumiu no mundo. Não ha outra nação que pode competir com os Estados Unidos no valor total de sua producção mineral, que em 1898 foi de $697,880,002, contra $630,909,468 em 1897.

O valor de todos os productos metallicos em 1898 foi de $344,096,130, contra $302,198,502 em 1897, on seja um augmento de $41,897,628. Todos os metaes, excepto o nickel, augmentaram muito, e o cobre, chumbo, zinco, aluminio e antimonio chegaram a seu mais alto grau, tanto pela quantidade produzida como por seu valor; mas não obstante que a quantidade de ferro em linguados produzida em 1898 foi maior que em nenhum outro anno, o valor deste producto foi muito menos que em 1890 ou 1892, ainda que excedeu em $21,434,701 ao que tinha sido em 1897, sendo isto mais da metade do augmento total nos productos metallicos de 1897 a 1898.

Os productos não metallicos augmentaram de $327,710,966 em 1897 a $352,783,872, ou seja um augmento de $25,072,906. O artigo que mostrou um crescimento mais notavel em sua producção foi o carvão betuminoso, que augmentou de $119,567,224 em 1897 a $132,586,313 em 1898, ou seja um augmento de $13,019,089. O valor do anthracito, comtudo, soffreu uma reducção de cerca de $4,000,000, emquanto que a quantidade produzida augmentou em 688,361 toneladas. Os outros productos cuja producção augmentou notavelmente em valor foram a pedra, o petroleo, o gaz natural e as aguas mineraes.

As cifras officiaes da producção e valor dos principaes productos são como seguem: Ferro e aço—ferro em linguados, 11,773,934 toneladas, contra 9,652,680 toneladas em 1897; a media do preço augmentou de $9.85 em 1897 a $9.90 por tonelada em 1898; aço de Bessemer em linguados, 6,609,917 toneladas; augmento, 1,133,702 toneladas; aço denominado "open hearth," 2,230,290 toneladas; augmento, 621,621 toneladas, ou seja 35 por cento; minerios de ferro, 19,278,369 toneladas, avaliadas em $22,012,542, o qual é um augmento de 1,760,323 toneladas e de $2,059,321 em valor; o preço medio da tonelada do minerio de ferro em 1898 foi de $1.14, contra $1.08 em 1897.

A producção de ouro continuou em augmento, e foi avaliada em $64,463,000, sendo produzida a quantidade de 3,118,398 onças Troy. A producção em 1897 foi de 2,774,935 onças Troy, avaliada em $57,363,000. A producção de prata foi de 53,860,000 onças Troy em 1897, cujo valor uma vez acunhado este metal ascendeu a $69,637,172 em 1897, e em 1898 foi produzida a quantidade de 54,438,000 onças Troy, com um valor, quando acunhada, de $70,384,485. O valor commercial do dito producto, sem embargo, baixou de $33,316,000 a $32,118,420, ou seja uma perda de $197,580. Os Estados Unidos continuam sendo

o primeiro paiz productor de prata no mundo, o Mexico occupando o segundo lugar.

A producção de cobre augmentou de 494,078,274 libras, avaliadas em $54,080,180 em 1897, a 526,512,987 libras, avaliadas em $61,865,276, em 1898. O augmento verificou-se principalmente em Arizona e Michigan, emquanto que em Montana a producção diminuiu. O preço médio por libra em 1898 foi de 11.75 centavos; em 1897, de 11 centavos e em 1896, de 10.5 centavos. Esta quantidade e este valor foram as mais grandes de que ha recordo. A escassez de cobre e o augmento em seu preço, assim como o enorme desenvolvimento a que tem chegado a especulação neste metal, não se fizeram sentir até o fim do anno, e não affectaram de uma maneira perceptivel os dados sobre a producção. A grande actividade que se manifesta na exploração de novas minas de cobre não affectará provavelmente a producção em 1899, devido ao tempo que se necessita para a exploração das ditas minas e para fundar estabelecimentos de beneficio.

A producção nacional de chumbo em 1898 foi de 231,269 toneladas, contra 212,000 no anno anterior. O valor deste producto tambem augmentou de $14,885,728 em 1897 a $17,345,175. A maior parte do augmento foi devido a Colorado e a Utah. Tambem houve um ligeiro augmento na producção de Missouri. A de Montana diminuiu em cerca de 2,000 toneladas. Além do exposto, os fundidores americanos sacaram, em 1898, 89, 209 toneladas de chumbo de mineraes estrangeiros e de linguados que se importaram. O preço médio do chumbo em Nova York foi de $3.78 a libra, contra $3.58 em 1897.

A producção de zinco em 1898 foi de 115,399 toneladas de 2,000 libras, avaliadas em $10,385,910, contra 99,980 toneladas avaliadas, em $8,498,300 em 1897. A producção deste metal em 1898 foi a maior de que ha recordo no paiz. A quantidade de mineral de zinco exportado foi de 11,782 toneladas, avaliadas em $299,870, contra 9,250 toneladas, com um valor de $211,350 em 1897. Quasi todo o minerio exportado proveio do Estado de New Jersey e o resto da quantidade produzida em 1898 sahiu das minas de Missouri e Kansas.

A producção de azougue, que diminuiu em 1899, melhorou em 1898 e augmentou de 26,648 frascos a 31,092. O valor augmentou de $993,415 a $1,188,627. O valor por frasco em 1897 foi de $37.28; em 1898 foi de $38.23. Este artigo vem principalmente da California.

A producção de aluminio foi de 5,200,000 libras, avaliadas em $1,716,000 em 1898, contra 4,000,000 libras avaliadas em $1,500,000 em 1897. O augmento no preço de cobre fez que este metal fosse substituido pelo aluminio para muitos usos.

A producção total de antimonio em 1898 foi de 2,240,000 libras, avaliadas em $184,050, contra 1,512,000 libras, com um valor de $109,655 em 1897. Como 80 por cento deste metal poi extrahido de mineraes estrangeiros. A quantidade de antimonio extrahido das minas dos Estados Unidos em 1898 foi de 697 toneladas.

A producção de mineral de manganez foi a maior que tem havido desde 1891, mas ainda que mostrou um augmento de cerca de 44 por cento sobre a de 1897 (de 11,108 a 15,957 toneladas) não foi mais de duas terçeiras partes do que tinha sido em 1889, 1890 e 1891. O valor deste producto em 1898 foi de $129,185, contra $95,505 em 1897.

A producção nacional de nickel é insignificante, si se a compara com o consumo annual, e o mercado é principalmente supprido pelo Canadá. A quantidade produzida, que em 1897 foi de 23,707 libras, baixou em 1898 a 13,411 libras. Quasi todo o nickel produzido no paiz sae do Estado de Minnesota. Nos estabelecimentos de refinação dos Estados Unidos se beneficiaram 1,738,929 libras de nickel, no qual vão incluidos os mineraes nacionaes e importados. O preço médio em Nova York foi de 34.5 centavos por libra em 1898, contra 34.63 centavos por libra em 1897.

A producção combinada de carvão bituminoso e anthracite em 1898 foi de 196,405,953 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglezas, equivalentes a 219,974,667 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ou seja um augmento de 9½ por cento. Deste grande total, 148,742,878 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglezas foram de carvão betuminoso. O augmento real em 1898 sobre 1897 foi de 17,636,609 toneladas de 2,240 libras inglezas, ou sejam 19,753,002 toneladas de 2,000 libras, quasi exclusivamente de carvão betuminoso. O valor deste producto augmentou quasi 5 por cento no anno, ou seja de $198,869,178 a $208,000,850.

Durante os annos anteriores a 1898 a demanda por carvão betuminoso tinha sido menos que a offerta, e os commerciantes neste artigo tiveram que luctar com estas condições do mercado, as quaes mudaram em 1898, e em vez de esforçarem-se para obter novos mercados ou conservar os velhos, não podiam satisfazer com promptidão os pedidos que se lhes faziam. Isto se deveu á procura por combustivel nas fabricas de ferro, de aço e de outros artigos, tanto durante a estação de calor como no inverno. Havia tal necessidade de trabalhadores para outras grandes industrias, que se fazia difficil conseguil-os em numero sufficiente para as minas. Apezar disto, o preço médio por tonelada de carvão betuminoso baixou de 81 centavos que tinha sido em 1897, a 80 centavos em 1898, continuando assim o periodo de diminuição no preço do carvão, que começou em 1897. A razão que se tem dado para esta diminuição em 1898 é o augmento no uso de machinas calculadas para economizar trabalho manual. Entre os 30 Estados que contribuiram á producção deste artigo, houve 22 em 1898 que produziram mais que em nenhum outro anno.

Notavel tambem foi o anno na producção de coke. O augmento sobre 1897 foi de 2,713,494 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ou seja de 13,288,984 das ditas toneladas em 1897 a 16,047,209 em 1898. Este augmento deve-se directamente ao incremento que tem tomado as industrias de ferro e aço.

O valor da producção de petroleo crú augmentou em $3,253,748 durante o anno, ou seja de $40,929,611 em 1897 a $44,183,359 em 1898. Emquanto que o producto teve maior valor, o numero de barris diminuiu de 60,568,081 que tinha sido em 1897 a 55,354,233 em 1898.

A quantidade de gaz natural produzida continúa diminuindo, mas seu valor augmentou de $13,826,422 em 1897 a $14,750,000 em 1898.

Em quanto ao valor de materiaes para construcções o valor da pedra augmentou de $34,667,772 a $36,607,264; o da ardosia de $780,112 a $1,370,075; o da argilla, incluindo os productos da olaria, de $62,359,991 a $71,597,380; o do cimento de Portland (com um augmento de 1,014,509 barris) de $4,315,891 a $5,970,773; o do cimento de rocha natural diminuiu de $3,862,392 a $3,810,728.

O valor de artigos como pedras de moinho e de amolar, corindon e esmeril, terra de infusorio e granada para o effeito de esfregar, augmentou de $754,222 a $1,075,046.

As substancias chimicas produzidas incluindo phosphatos, gesso, bromo, borax, espatho-fluor, enxofre e pyrite de ferro para uso na manufactura de acido sulphurico, tiveram um valor de $6,145,165 contra $5,112,450 em 1897. A producção de sal foi a maior de que ha recordo, 17,612,634 barris de 280 libras cada um, contra 15,973,202 barris em 1897. O augmento na quantidade produzida foi acompanhado de uma alta de 15 por cento no preço, e o valor total augmentou de $4,920,020 em 1897 a $6,212,554 em 1898. Os productores receberam por cada barril um preço médio de 35.3 centavos.

A producção da maior parte dos côres, incluindo tintas metallicas, ocre, terra de sombra, terra de Sienna, roxo da Veneza, branco de zinco, barytas, alvaiade e minio, lithargyro, mineral laranjado e oxido de cobalto diminuiram, mas devido ao grande augmento no valor do branco de zinco ($1,750,000 a $2,310,000) o grande total mostra um valor em 1898 de $3,124,967, contra $2,635,320 em 1897.

O valor da producção de pedras preciosas augmentou de $130,675 em 1897 a $160,920 em 1898. O facto mais notavel durante o anno foi o descobrimento de crystal de rocha no Estado da California, de qualidade quasi igual á do Japão. Cortaram-se pedaços até de 7 pollegadas de largura. Tambem é notavel o augmento na producção de saphiras em Montana; a continúa producção das minas de turqueza de Novo Mexico; o descobrimento de tormalinas em Maine e Connecticut, o augmento na importação de diamantes, e o desemvolvimento na industria de talhar estes ultimos.

O numero de galões de aguas mineraes que se vendeu em 1897 foi de 23,255,911, avaliadas em $4,559,106; em 1898 as vendas ascenderam a 28,853,464 galões, avaliadas em $8,051,833. O por cento de augmento em galões foi 24, emquanto que o augmento em valor foi 75.07 por cento.

Em productos miscellaneos, taes como greda, mica, feldspatho, pederneira, asphalto, asbesto, graphito, pedra de sabão, magnesita, pedra de cal para a fusão de ferro, bauxita e monazita, o valor total augmentou

em um anno de $3,565,116 a $4,105,898. O valor de asbesto importado nos Estados Unidos, principalmente do Canadá, ascendeu a $300,533, contra $268,264 em 1897. O periodico "Mineral Industry" dá conta dos seguintes novos productos: ferromolybdeno, 2,100 libras, avaliadas a 50 centavos por libra; molybdeno, 9,550 libras, com um valor de $1.25 por libra approximadamente. Diz tambem a mesma publicação que a platina que se produziu ascendeu a 300 onças Troy, contra 200 onças Troy em 1897. O valor médio da platina em barra em Nova York, foi de $12.79 a onça, contra $12.34 em 1897. Segundo a publicação da Repartição Geologica acima mencionada, havia no mercado de São Francisco 150 onças Troy de platina crúa em 1897, avaliadas em $900, e 225 onças Troy em 1898, avaliadas em $1,913, ou seja um pouco mais de $8.50 a onça.

COMMERCIO DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS COM OS PAIZES AMERICANOS.

O numero do "Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance of the United States," correspondente ao mez de Junho de 1899, o qual é publicado pelo Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Fazenda, contem um artigo sobre o commercio dos Estados Unidos com os paizes da America Central e da America do Sul, do qual teem-se cuidado por muito tempo os estadistas, economistas e homens de negocios.

Como ás estatisticas demonstram, o commercio com os paizes inglezes do Continente Americano ao norte dos Estados Unidos tem crescido rapidamente e tem sido muito satisfactorio tanto a esses paizes como aos Estados Unidos; mas com os paizes vizinhos do sul em que se falla outra lingua, o commercio tem sido menos satisfactorio, diminuindo em valor á proporção que a distancia augmente.

Para o Canadá, os Estados Unidos enviam 59 por cento do total das mercadorias que aquelle paiz importa; para o Mexico, paiz que está igualmente adjacente, mas em que se falla lingua differente, 49 por cento; para os paizes da America Central, com que se faz communicação por vapores e estradas de ferro, 37 por cento; para a Colombia, que está um pouco mais distante, mas a que se pode chegar por transportes maritimos, 33 por cento; para Venezuela, 27 por cento; para as Antilhas, 20 por cento; Guyana ingleza, 25 por cento; Guyana hollandeza, 17 por cento, e para Guyana franceza, menos de 6 por cento. Até aqui, o desenvolvimento do commercio entre os Estados Unidos e os outros paizes da America é bastante satisfactorio, mas ao mesmo tempo tem de conceder-se que os Estados Unidos devem ter maior parte no commercio desses paizes tão adjacentes, especialmente em vista do facto de que os Estados Unidos compram d'elles muito mais do que lhes vendem.

Mas parece muito satisfactoria esta condição do commercio comparada com a dos Estados Unidos com os paizes da costa do Atlantico e da do Pacifico da America do Sul. Do total da importação da America do Sul, os paizes da costa do Atlantico e do Pacifico tomam 87 por cento,

e 13 por cento os paizes banhados pelo mar das Antilhas. Em 1897 a importação total no Brazil foi no valor de $105,000,000, e desta quantia só 12 por cento corresponde aos Estados Unidos; a importação total do Uruguay e do Paraguay foi de $22,000,000, correspondendo aos Estados Unidos 7 por cento; a Republica Argentina, $95,000,000, sendo importado aos Estados Unidos menos de 7 por cento desta quantia. Quanto á costa do Pacifico, as importações do Chile foram no valor de $25,000,000; as do Perú, $8,500,000; Bolivia, $11,600,000, e Equador, $7,000,000, sendo importado dos Estados Unidos só 10 por cento desta quantia. Os paizes na costa septentrional da America do Sul importam mercadorias no valor de $36,000,000, dos quaes 25 por cento corresponde aos Estados Unidos; na costa do Atlantico, $222,000,000, e na costa do Pacifico, $51,000,000, sendo de 10 por cento a proporção da importação em cada costa procedente dos Estados Unidos.

O exame da lista das compras feitas pelos Estados Unidos dos paizes da America Central e do Sul, parece augmentar a anomalia que se apresenta pela falta de compras reciprocas. Os Estados Unidos compram café e borracha do Brazil e Mexico, que constituem seus principaes artigos de exportação, em maior quantidade que qualquer outro paiz. Tambem importam grande quantidade de mercadorias da Republica Argentina e do Chile, e para todos os paizes da America do Sul os Estados Unidos offerecem um excellente mercado para os seus assucares, especiarias, fructas, páos de tinturaria e outros productos tropicaes. Durante o exercicio de 1897, os Estados Unidos compraram de paizes da costa do Atlantico e do Pacifico productos no valor de $88,408,119, emquanto venderam a estes paizes durante o mesmo periodo productos no valor de só $24,480,013.

Ainda que, durante o exercicio de 1898, o total da exportação dos Estados Unidos foi dobro do total da importação, a sua importação dos paizes sul-americanos que não sejam limitados pelo mar das Antilhas foi quasi tres vezes o valor da sua exportação para estes paizes. Para os paizes da America Central e as Republicas da Colombia e Venezuela, entre cujos portos e os dos Estados Unidos ha um serviço regular de vapores, o desenvolvimento da exportação tem sido muito satisfactorio, mas com os outros paizes do continente da America do Sul as relações commerciaes tornam-se menos satisfactorias cada anno.

Com o objecto de combater este estado de cousas e estimular um commercio reciproco na America, no Boletim Mensal da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas tem-se publicado, de tempos em tempos, artigos em que se chama a attenção dos commerciantes sul-americanos para a preponderancia de manufacturas e productos dos Estados Unidos nos paizes da Europa. Dados detalhados sobre as importações dos paizes da America do Sul indicam que esses mercados podiam ser suppridos facilmente pelos Estados Unidos, si houvessem facilidades de transporte. Isto suggere as vantagens que resultarão aos Estados Unidos, especialmente com relação ao commercio com a costa occidental

da America do Sul, quando estiver concluido o canal atravez do Isthmo. No artigo publicado no BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Setembro de 1897, mostram-se as distancias que se hão de evitar pela construcção de um canal atravez do Isthmo.

O facto de que o Isthmo de Panama fica quasi directamente ao sul dos portos da costa do Atlantico dos Estados Unidos e que todos os navios com destino á costa occidental da America do Sul teem de navegar na direcção de léste por uma distancia de 2,600 milhas, regressando para o oeste por igual distancia antes de chegar áquella costa, indica quanto seria economisado em distancia e em custos si uma via maritima fosse construida em algum ponto atravez do Isthmo.

Apezar d'isto e da falta de facilidades de transporte, os Estados Unidos e as Republicas sul-americanas poderiam augmentar muito o seu commercio entre si, si fizessem concessões de tarifa reciprocas, as quaes prejudicariam pouco suas rendas aduaneiras.

CONDIÇÃO DAS PRINCIPAES COLHEITAS O 1° DE SETEMBRO DE 1899.

Segundo o relatorio da Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria de Agricultura, a condição média das principaes colheitas era, no dia 1° do mez de Setembro, como segue: Milho, 85.2; trigo, 70.9; aveia, 87.2; cevada, 82; algodão, 68.5; trigo mourisco, 75.2; batatas, 86.3. A condição da colheita de milho durante o mez de Agosto baixou 4.7 pontos, mas a condição em 1° de Setembro era 1.1 pontos mais alta que na data correspondente de 1898 e 2.9 pontos acima da média no mez de Setembro durante os ultimos dez annos. A condição do trigo de inverno e o de primavera era 70.9, comparada com 86.7 na data correspondente de 1898, e 82.5 a condição média no mez de Setembro durante os ultimos dez annos.

A quantidade do trigo não pode ser calculada até que se faz uma revisão do numero de geiras semeadas nos Estados do noroeste e sobre o Pacifico. A condição média da colheita de aveia era 87.2, comparada com 79.0 em 1° de Setembro de 1898, e 80.0 a condição média durante os ultimos dez annos. A condição média da colheita de cevada era 86.7 em 1° de Setembro de 1899, comparada com 79.2 na data correspondente de 1898 e 84.1 a condição média durante os ultimos dez annos. A condição do centeio era 82.0, contra 89.4 em 1° de Setembro de 1898, e 87.5 a média durante os ultimos dez annos. A condição média do trigo mourisco para 1897 e 1898 era 75.2 e 88.8, respectivamente, e 88.0 a condição média durante os ultimos dez annos.

A condição do algodão durante o mez de Agosto soffreu grandes prejuizos resultantes da secca que durou muito tempo na região do algodão. Tambem as grandes chuvas têm aggravado ainda a situação. Por conseguinte, a média da condição o 1° de Setembro de 1899 era só 68.5, comparada com 79.8, na data correspondente de 1898, e 78.4 a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Houve uma melhora de 5 pontos

na condição da canna de assucar no Estado da Louisiana, com mudanças de pouca importancia nas outras secções. A condição média das batatas era 86.3, ou 9.3 pontos mais alta que a média no mez de Setembro durante os ultimos dez annos. A condição dos outros productos é pouco differente da para o mez de Agosto.

EXPOSIÇÃO DE EXPORTAÇÕES EM PHILADELPHIA.

A Exposição Nacional de Exportações foi aberta em Philadelphia ao meio dia, 14 de Setembro de 1899. Compareceram á Exposição centenares de pessoas provenientes de todas as partes do paiz, incluindo representantes do Corpo Diplomatico, officiaes de Guerra e de Marinha, scientistas, homens de negocios, etc. O Sr. W. W. FOULKROD pronunciou o discurso entregando á Exposição ao Governador do Estado.

O Director General, Sr. W. P. WILSON, pronunciou um discurso intitulado: "Inicio, Fim, Plano e Escopo da Exposição." Disse em parte:

"O objecto desta Exposição é mostrar ao consumidor estrangeiro o que o manufactureiro americano pode fabricar, assim como a barateza e a perfeição do artigo manufacturado.

"Os Governos de todos os paizes do mundo foram convidados a enviar representantes á Exposição, assim como suas principaes Camaras de Commercio, e esses convites foram cordialmente aceitos. Tambem 20,000 das principaes casas de commercio foram convidadas a aproveitarem-se dessa opportunidade para ver a reunião em Philadelphia de todos os interesses manufactureiros dos Estados Unidos, as quaes têm aceito o convite de ser presentes á Exposição."

O Governador STONE pronunciou um discurso saudando os assistentes, aceitando a Exposição e entregando-a ao Mayor de Philadelphia. O Mayor ASHBRIDGE aceitou a Exposição e o Sr. W. P. HEPBURN, Deputado pelo Estado de Iowa, e Presidente da Commissão do Congresso do Commercio Interestadoal e Estrangeiro, pronunciou o principal discurso do dia.

Á conclusão destas ceremonias, se telegraphou ao Presidente MCKINLEY que a Exposição era prompta para ser declarada aberta. O Presidente telegraphou immediatamente o seguinte:

"PALACIO EXECUTIVO,

"*Washington, D. C., 14 de Setembro de 1899.*

"Ao Sr. Dr. W. P. WILSON, *Director General da Exposição Nacional de Exportações em Philadelphia:*

"A abertura da Exposição Nacional de Exportações marca outro passo importante no desenvolvimento do nosso commercio, e na promoção de relações mais cordiaes a este respeito com outras nações.

"Felicito sinceramente você e vossos associados e espero que sejam inteiramente realizados vossos mais ardentes desejos do exito desta Exposição.

"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

O Vice-Presidente FOULKROD deu leitura a este telegramma e depois annunciou que o Presidente MCKINLEY, quem naquelle momento estava esperando na Casa Branca para este fim, tocaria na tecla telegraphica em Washington que faz communicação com o instrumento telegraphico no theatro, assim significando sua participação nas ceremonias de inauguração. Isto se fez, e no silencio momentaneo se ouviu a uma distancia consideravel do theatro o som do instrumento.

Depois a Exposição foi declarada aberta e foi visitada por 25,000 pessoas durante o dia.

COMMERCIO DA GRÃ BRETANHA COM OS PAIZES AMERICANOS.

Do periodico "Accounts Relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom," correspondente ao 1º de Julho de 1899, se extraem as seguintes estatisticas sobre o commercio da Grã Bretanha com os diversos paizes da America e suas possessões do Continente Occidental e das ilhas adjacentes, durante o primeiro semestre de 1899. As importações classificam-se geralmente na lista pelos paizes de onde foram embarcadas directamente para o Reino Unido. Na maioria dos casos, o paiz de embarque é tambem o paiz de origem, mas no caso dos paizes que não teem porto de mar, como, por exemplo, a Bolivia, essa classificação não pode ser feita. As exportações, por geral, acreditam-se ao paiz para onde se destinam como indicado pelos exportadores em suas declarações. Dá-se tambem o total do commercio durante o primeiro semestre de 1898, para comparal-o com o de 1899.

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTAÇÃO.		
Estados Unidos:		
Da costa do Atlantico	£61, 995, 214	£65, 467, 818
Da costa do Pacifico	2, 076, 343	3, 261, 296
Total	64, 071, 557	68, 729, 114
Cuba e Porto Rico	15, 188	17, 192
Canadá:		
Da costa do Atlantico	4, 783, 968	4, 478, 780
Da costa do Pacifico	368, 071	612, 891
Terra Nova e Labrador	100, 515	70, 986
Bermudas	866	766
As Antilhas:		
Inglezas	1, 039, 496	904, 088
Francezas	216	63
Hollandezas	11, 003	13, 974
Dinamarquezas	93	8, 836
Haiti e Santo Domingo	36, 698	53, 444
Mexico	227, 801	147, 755
Guatemala	133, 920	270, 692

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTAÇÃO—continua.		
Honduras	£900	£4,965
Belize	82,360	95,911
Salvador	70,711	184,397
Nicaragua	23,686	58,315
Costa Rica	254,273	543,163
Colombia	457,373	388,801
Venezuela	22,809	19,648
Guyana:		
Ingleza	193,452	303,257
Hollandeza	24,414	19,251
Equador	58,561	100,579
Peru	640,990	733,170
Chile (inclusive a costa do Pacifico da Patagonia)	2,244,215	1,990,060
Brazil	2,157,548	2,362,705
Uruguay	155,038	165,427
Republica Argentina (inclusive a costa do Atlantico da Patagonia)	5,365,232	4,854,019
As Ilhas Falkland	101,281	109,670
Total dos paizes Americanos	82,642,235	87,241,119
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Estados Unidos:		
Para a costa do Atlantico	7,787,687	7,236,601
Para a costa do Pacifico	225,752	202,914
Cuba e Porto Rico	463,526	119,423
Canadá:		
Costa do Atlantico	2,925,889	2,591,935
Costa do Pacifico	154,285	162,179
Terra Nova e Labrador	164,637	137,219
Bermudas	45,476	48,898
As Antilhas:		
Inglezas	875,833	903,775
Francezas	49,182	36,948
Hollandezas	15,009	13,167
Dinamarquezas	16,487	25,312
Haiti e Santo Domingo	130,267	74,921
Mexico	934,983	822,060
Guatemala	21,434	10,855
Honduras	76,482	41,737
Belize	22,966	29,694
Salvador	76,482	41,737
Nicaragua	58,832	38,183
Costa Rica	47,586	54,195
Colombia	361,518	374,301
Venezuela	360,619	186,040
Guyana:		
Ingleza	261,237	284,142
Franceza	1,202	936
Hollandeza	18,423	21,110
Equador	176,111	159,236
Peru	409,161	384,078
Chile (inclusive a costa occidental da Patagonia)	844,895	821,780
Brazil	2,523,457	2,774,085
Uruguay	618,258	542,187
Paraguay	4,749	4,522
Republica Argentina (inclusive a costa oriental da Patagonia)	2,849,701	2,435,871
As Ilhas Falkland	12,231	9,549
Total para os paizes Americanos	2,534,357	20,589,030

GELO ARTIFICIAL.

Esta industria tem alcançado nos Estados Unidos um desenvolvimento verdadeiramente assombroso, e já o gelo artificial faz concurrencia com o natural ainda nos grandes cidades do Norte. Sem duvida o primeiro é muito mais puro que o segundo, pois por meio de um apparelho especial pode-se purificar a agua que se emprega para fazel-o. Uma das grandes vantagens que tem o gelo manufacturado sobre o natural, é que é fabricado no mesmo lugar onde elle se consome, e assim

se evitam os gastos de transporte e a perda que o artigo necessariamente soffre, pois é impossivel impedir que se derreta mais ou menos ao leval-o de uma parte para outra. Calcula-se que só nisto se perde de 20 a 50 por cento.

A fabricação de machinas de fazer gelo tem chegado nos Estados Unidos a um alto gráo de perfeição, e ha machinas de todos os tamanhos e preços, desde as que fazem uma tonelada por dia até as que fabricam centenares. Emquanto maior é a capacidade da machina, é menor o custo da producção, mas ainda aquellas que só produzem uma tonelada por dia dão bons lucros.

É um facto, por muitos ignorado, que o gelo artificial dura mais que o natural, devido á sua densidade, á falta de ar e á baixa da temperatura que se emprega na sua fabricação. Em todos os lugares em que se tem introduzido o gelo artificial está tomando o posto do natural, e é sabido que em muitas das grandes cidades americanas varios dos que antes faziam commercio no gelo natural teem comprado as fabricas de gelo artificial que lhes faziam concurrencia. A fabricação de gelo é um negocio muito lucrativo, e tende a crescer de dia em dia. Não se registra um só caso em que tenha fallido, e innumeravel são os que podem citar-se em que havendo-se iniciado em escala muito pequena, tem-se desenvolvido em poucos annos até assumir immensas proporções.

Si o gelo é uma necessidade em todas as partes, o é especialmente nos paizes tropicaes, e a importação deste artigo, que sempre exige grande custo e trabalho, é já desnecessaria, pois basta com uma boa machina, como as que se fabricam em muitas partes dos Estados Unidos, para satisfazer todas as necessidades. Já em alguns paizes da America latina se usam as machinas americanas para a fabricação de gelo, e os resultados obtidos parecem responder ás esperanças dos que teem empregado seu capital nessa classe de emprezas, pelo qual se crê que, andando o tempo, o commercio de gelo natural, que antes se fazia em grande escala com os paizes tropicaes, cessará por completo e será substituido com a introducção de machinas para a fabricação de um artigo de tão absoluta necessidade.

Como um exemplo do que se tem dito, pode citar-se a Republica de Nicaragua, onde a fabricação de gelo, que ha poucos annos era inteiramente desconhecida, tem alcançado notavel incremento, e hoje todas as principaes povoações do paiz estão provistas de excellente gelo fabricado por machinas americanas.

NOTAS BIBLIOGRAPHICAS.

A "Scientific Publication Company," de Nova York e Londres, tem publicado recentemente um volume intitulado "The Mineral Industry; its Statistics, Technology, and Trade in the United States and other countries to the end of 1898" ("A Industria Mineira; sua Estatistica, Technologia e Commercio nos Estados Unidos e demais paizes até o fim do anno de 1898"). Esta obra, que foi editada pelo Sr. R. P. BOTHWELL, contem 940 paginas e é bem illustrada. Este volume é o setimo da serie, tendo sido o primeiro volume publicado em 1893, que contem as estatisticas para 1892 e os annos anteriores, e dá um resumo geral da industria desde o principio. O Volume VII, dá as estatisticas da industria e os outros dados de caracter technico ou industrial até o fim do anno de 1898.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. SEPTEMBRE 1899. No. 3.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

EXPORTATIONS PENDANT LE 1er SEMESTRE DE L'ANNÉE 1899.

La "Review of the River Plate" du 15 juillet 1899 donne les statistiques des principales exportations de la République Argentine pendant le 1er semestre 1899 dans les différents ports de l'Europe, de l'Amérique du Nord, de l'Afrique et du Brésil.

L'examen de ce tableau de statistique montre d'une manière évidente une augmentation considérable dans les produits agricoles, et on peut y constater que la quantité de blé exporté surpassait de 500,000 tonnes celle de 1898 pendant la même période. Ce tableau indique aussi une augmentation de 70,000 tonnes pour le maïs, de 30,000 tonnes pour la graine de lin et de 11,000 tonnes pour la farine, cette dernière quantité étant juste le double de celle exportée l'année dernière. Quant aux exportations du quebracho elles ont augmenté de 30,000 tonnes, ce qui équivaut à 50 pour cent.

La quantité totale du blé exporté a été de 1,078,819 tonnes, la Belgique en ayant acquis la plus grande partie, soit 258,190 tonnes; la Grande-Bretagne vient après pour 123,347 tonnes. Toutefois, presque la moitié de la totalité (469,185 tonnes) est désignée dans le tableau précité sous la dénomination "Commandes" et la destination de cette quantité est inconnue.

Des 97,026 tonnes de quebracho exporté, 39,638 tonnes ont été expédiées en Allemagne. Le total général des peaux de bœuf salé exportées s'élevait à 606,217 tonnes. L'Allemagne en a acheté la plus grande quantité (291,415 tonnes) et la Belgique est venue immédiatement après pour 214,453 tonnes.

Les peaux expédiées se sont montées à 885,764 tonnes. Les principaux marchés pour les peaux de bœuf séchées sont ceux des Etats-Unis; 480,660 peaux ont été expédiées dans les ports de l'Union.

Une dépression générale est constatée dans les productions animales qui comprennent les cuirs, les peaux, les carcasses, etc.

EXPORTATION DE LA LAINE EN ALLEMAGNE.

D'après les statistiques officielles que Mr. LOUIS STERN, Agent Consulaire à Bamberg (Allemagne), vient d'adresser au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, il résulte que la République Argentine depuis 1897 a occupé le premier rang parmi les pays qui ont intérêt à approvisionner de laine les marchés allemands. Les laines importées de la République Argentine, y compris celles de la Belgique, qui sont principalement d'origine Argentine, se montaient à 204,366,420 livres en 1898, au lieu de 169,754,200 en 1897 et 165,345,000 livres en 1895.

Les laines provenant d'Australie et du Cap expédiées en Allemagne en 1898 s'élevaient à environ 15,653,000 livres; en 1897 la quantité importée était à peu près la même, mais en 1895 elle se montait à 213,846,200 livres. La diminution des importations de la laine provenant des Colonies Anglaises est due principalement aux importations d'Australie, qui, depuis 1895, ont décru de plus d'un tiers. On s'attend à une plus grande diminution dans la laine qui vient de ce pays, car, d'après un rapport de "New South Wales," une longue sécheresse a fait perdre à la colonie plusieurs centaines de mille moutons et la production totale de la laine australienne a été réduite de 1,500,000 à 250,000 ballots.

Etant données les conditions actuelles, la République Argentine a donc une occasion favorable d'augmenter son commerce de laine avec l'Allemagne.

Naturellement, les exportations de la République Argentine augmentant, les importations de l'Allemagne deviendront plus grandes, et on s'attend à voir le commerce entre les deux pays s'accroître considérablement avant la fin de l'année fiscale.

USAGES DE LA PLACE DE BUENOS-AIRES.

La Chambre de Commerce Française de Buenos-Aires a informé son gouvernement que la Chambre de Commerce de la Bourse, chargée d'interpréter un contrat d'affrètement où figurait la clause connue sous le nom de "dispatch money," c'est-à-dire le paiement d'une somme pour l'embarquement de marchandises, a décidé que dans ce cas les jours fériés ne doivent compter ni pour l'exportateur ni pour le navire, dans le délai d'embarquement stipulé au contrat.

TRAVAUX PROJETES AU PORT DE SANTA FÉ.

Mr. M. G. Brandis, Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur à Santa Fé, vient de faire parvenir au Moniteur Officiel du Commerce, la communication suivante:

"Il est question en ce moment d'approfondir le canal d'accès du port de Santa Fé, et d'y exécuter de sérieux travaux d'aménagement.

"Le Ministre des Travaux Publics de la nation a formellement promis de faire procéder aux études nécessaires avant la fin de l'année, afin d'être en mesure de mettre, l'année prochaine, l'entreprise de ces travaux en adjudication."

Les renseignements ci-dessus peuvent dès lors intéresser les maisons américaines qui seraient désireuses d'y prendre part.

BRÉSIL.

EXPORTATION DE CAFÉ.

On lit dans le journal hebdomadaire, "Le Nouveau Monde," à la date du 12 du courant, que pendant le 1er semestre de l'année 1899 il a été embarqué à Rio-de-Janeiro, pour être exportés à l'étranger, 1,323,373 sacs de café; de ce total, 659,538 sacs provenaient de Minas Geraes; 568,508 de Rio-de-Janeiro; 18,291 de São Paulo et 77,036 d'Espirito Santo.

BOLIVIE.

RELÈVEMENT DES DROITS DE DOUANE.

Le "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" donne les informations suivantes:

"Aux termes d'un décret du Gouvernement provisoire de la Bolivie rendu en date du 2 juin dernier, le droit additionnel de 20 pour cent à percevoir sur les sommes payées à la douane bolivienne pour acquittement des droits d'entrée est portée à 40 pour cent, à partir de cette date.

"Les droits à percevoir à la sortie de la Bolivie sont relevés à 1 bolivien pour le minerai d'étain, à 1.60 boliviens pour l'étain en barre, et à 3 boliviens pour le bismuth, par unité de 64 kilogrammes."

CUBA.

REVENUS ET DÉPENSES DE L'ANNÉE 1899.

Le Ministère de la Guerre des Etats-Unis a publié le 27 août 1899 un rapport extraordinairement intéressant sur la situation financière de l'Ile de Cuba. C'est une importante publication parce qu'elle démontre que sous une administration économe et intelligente les revenus de l'Ile du 1er janvier au 30 juin 1899 ont surpassé les dépenses de la remarquable somme de $1,480,021.92. Ce résultat très encourageant parce que avec l'inauguration d'un nouveau système d'administration les dépenses ont été nécessairement fortes.

Pendant la susdite période, les recettes de toutes sortes se sont montées à $6,982,010.20; les depenses se sont élevées à $5,501,988.28. Cette dernière somme est répartie comme suit: Mesures sanitaires, $1,713,014.20; construction et perfectionnement de baraques et de casernes, $305,263.06; hôpitaux et bureaux de bienfaisance, $293,881.37; travaux publics, travaux exécutés dans les ports et les forts, $250,674.12; secours aux indigeants, $88,944.03; quarantaine, $42,203.90; police rurale et administration, $443,363.10; gouvernement civil, $342,146.01; service municipal, $725,281.38. Il est essentiel de remarquer que les revenus, au lieu de diminuer, ont augmenté, les recettes pendant le mois de juillet ayant été de 15 pour cent plus fortes que celles de l'année précédente. Les recouvrements des droits de douane pendant le mois de juillet se sont élevés à $1,201,537; les impôts de l'intérieur ont produit $36,357; les recettes postales, $15,000; les revenus divers, $63,433; le tout donnant un total général de $1,339,324. Les dépenses pendant le même mois se sont montées à $1,029,877.

À la fin de l'année, on constatera probablement que le rétablissement graduel des industries et du commerce extérieur a augmenté les renenus d'un taux mensuel plus fort que celui obtenu par les recettes du mois de juillet, qui ont été néanmoins suffisantes aux dépenses du Gouvernement de l'Ile, et laissera une balance mensuelle assez forte pour faire face aux travaux d'amélioration dont on a tant besoin.

EQUATEUR.

CULTURE, PRODUCTION ET CONSOMMATION DU CACAO.

Le cacao est une sorte d'amande renfermée dans une capsule et qui, rôtie et broyée, forme la base principale du chocolat et de différentes espèces de confections. C'est un aliment très nourrissant, sain et stimulant. Le "beurre de cacao" qui est d'un très grand emploi en médecine est ordonné pour l'usage externe et entre dans la composition des

pommades conseillées contre les gerçures et de nombreuses maladies de peau. On fait aussi avec le cacao une boisson qui fait les délices des peuples qui habitent les régions de la zone tempérée. Dans les pays qui le produisent, la pulpe de la cabosse du cacao est employée comme nourriture pour les animaux. Partout où le cacao est introduit, sa renommée augmente constamment et ni fluctuation dans le prix, ni tentative d'employer un autre produit à sa place, n'a pu affecter son utilité dans les localités où il a été une fois bien connu.

Le principal élément du cacao est le théobrome, un réactif organique puissant. Cette plante, classée dans la famille des byttneracées et surnommée par Linné cacao théobrome, comprend plusieurs espèces ou variétés que l'on trouve dans l'Equateur.

On croit que le cacao est une plante originaire du Mexique où il était cultivé bien avant la conquête espagnole. Il s'appelait alors "cacari" ou "cascara quahuitil," et le produit était désigné sous le nom de "chocolatl," d'où dérive le mot français chocolat.

À la date du 28 juin 1899, Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, Consul-Général à Guayaquil, à adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington un rapport très détaillé au sujet de la culture et de la production du cacao dans la République de l'Equateur, la plus grande contrée productrice de cacao du monde. Les renseignements précédents et suivants ont été extraits de ce rapport.

Les annales du pays ne donnent pas la date de l'introduction de la plante. Il a été constaté que la production annuelle en 1741 était de 35,000 à 40,000 "cargas," de 81 livres chacune. Le cacao est cultivé dans les cinq provinces de la côte et le nombre des arbres est estimé être 47,200,000, qui produisent annuellement 358,000 à 365,000 quintaux espaqnols (101.61 livres). Les cacaoyers ont besoin pour réussir d'ombre, de chaleur (77° à 86° F.), et d'humidité; il leur faut un terrain vierge, humide, profond et léger; les racines des arbres poussent verticalement à une très grande profondeur. La meilleure terre est celle qui est riche en matières organiques et mélangée d'une certaine proportion de sable et d'argile à cause de l'acide phosphorique et de potasse dont a besoin le fruit. La plantation des cacaoyers se fait au moyen de graines; quatre ou cinq sont mises dans chaque trou creusé et rangé par file et à une distance de cinq mètres environ.

La préparation de la terre pour une plantation se borne à enlever les mauvaises herbes, les petits arbres, mais à laisser les grands pour protéger les cacaoyers contre les chaleurs excessives. Pendant cinq ou six ans on cultive entre les rangées des cacaoyers, du maïs, des herbes à la flèche, des racines ou du plantain afin de donner de la fraîcheur et de l'ombrage à cette plante délicate et pour obtenir aussi un revenu immédiat. Après cette période, le cacaoyer atteint une hauteur de huit à neuf pieds, commence à donner des fruits et se trouve dans un état de parfaite vitalité. La culture se borne à prendre soin de la plante jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait atteint sa maturité et alors on enlève les mau-

vaises herbes une fois par an. Pendant les premières années, l'arbre est taillé de temps en temps afin qu'il puisse produire plus vite des fruits. Durant la saison pluvieuse les dépôts humides et la végétation pourrie, qui sont répandus sur la terre, semblent fournir assez de substance nutritive aux arbres, mais dans quelques "haciendas" les propriétaires entassent au pied de l'arbre des feuilles et autres matières végétales. Ils frottent aussi de haut en bas l'écorce de l'arbre avec de gros draps afin de détruire les parasites qui pourraient s'y attacher.

Au bout de la sixième ou septième année des petites cabosses de cacao commencent à se montrer sur l'arbre mais qui ne dédommagent pas de la peine que l'on a pour les cueillir. Après 10 années les arbres atteignent leur complète maturité et produisent une moyenne d'une livre de cacao sec d'une excellente qualité. L'arbre est en fleur pendant toute l'année, mais la plupart des fleurs se renouvellent sans cesse et tombent avant la fructification qui a lieu deux fois par an. Le cacaoyer atteint quelquefois une hauteur de 20 à 30 pieds; ses feuilles conservent leur verdure, elles sont entières, alternes et munies de stipules. La base de beaucoup de troncs atteint une épaisseur de 8 à 10 pouces; l'écorce est dure et de la couleur verdâtre du café. La corolle est très petite, a cinq pétales inégaux et alternés avec les lobes du calice; elle est d'une couleur blanche teintée de rose, ressemble à la cire et pousse sur le tronc principal et les branches. Quand les fruits commencent à pousser, les pétales tombent et, dans l'espace de 50 à 70 jours, la cabosse de cacao se développe de l'étamine. Cette cabosse a une teinte dorée et contient intérieurement, enveloppées d'un liquide gommeux (pulpe) qui se coagule à l'air, 20 à 25 graines amygdaloïdes désignées sous le nom de cacao.

L'écorce extérieure est extrêmement dure et il est nécessaire d'employer un instrument très tranchant pour la couper. Ces fruits ont nue dimension qui varie, suivant l'espèce, de 8 à 15 pouces en longueur et de 2 à 6 pouces en épaisseur. L'écorce et le contenu gommeux de la cabosse sont poreux et se noircissent aussitôt que le fruit est cueilli; et dans la République de l'Equateur ils sont seulement employés pour fertiliser le sol sur lequel ils sont jetés. Les graines ont une saveur âcre et amère, elles ont à peu près la dimension et la forme d'une grosse amande et contiennent des principes actifs de théobromine, de phosphate, une substance onctueuse et de l'eau. Quand les graines sont sèches, elles ont une apparence vitreuse, elles sont couvertes d'une peau plus ou moins délicate qui est restée adhérente à leur surface dont on les débarrasse facilement et qui renferme une pellicule. La couleur varie du violet à celle du café noir, la première couleur indiquant une qualité inférieure. Aussitôt que les cabosses sont mûres, on les cueille au moyen d'un sécateur bien affilé qu'on attache à l'extrémité d'un long bâton; les "machetes" sont aussi employées quand les cabosses ne sont pas très hautes.

A mesure que se fait la cueillette, des femmes et des enfants ouvrent les cabosses avec des couteaux et, à l'aide d'une spatule faite avec une

côte de bœuf, en retirent les graines et la substance gommeuse qu'elles renferment et les répandent sur des nattes de jonc et de palmier pour les faire sécher au soleil pendant 3 ou 4 jours. Afin que la dessication soit complète, des laboureurs ont soin de les remuer de temps à autres avec les pieds nus. Si les graines ne sont pas suffisamment séchées, elles ont une tendance à la fermentation, et si elles sont trop sèches, elles diminuent et deviennent noires. Quand le temps est pluvieux elles sont protégées au moyen de couvertures. Quand les graines sont sèches, une grande quantité de pulpe reste adhérente à leur surface, néanmoins elles sont envoyées dans ces conditions à Guayaquil pour être vendues immédiatement.

Quand le cacao arrive ainsi dans cette ville, il est soumis à un nettoyage complet afin de le débarrasser de la poussière, des mauvaises graines et de toutes les matières défectueuses ou nuisibles; et les graines qui sont collées ensemble sont séparées et séchées plusieurs fois avant d'être exportées. Pendant cette opération le poids diminue de 4 à 5 pour cent. Les sacs expédiés à l'étranger renferment net de 60 à 70 kilogrammes de cacao (132–154 livres). La plus grande partie de la récolte est achetée en avance par les marchands de Guayaquil qui prêtent aux planteurs de cacao des sommes considérables afin de leur permettre de subvenir aux dépenses courantes occasionnées par cette culture.

Le rapport du Consul contient un tableau qui donne la valeur en "sucres" des prix sur les marchés de Guayaquil pendant les 42 années qui viennent de s'écouler. Le "condor" de l'Equateur (de 10 sucres), dit-il, a la valeur métallique de la livre sterling; un "sucre" vaut en conséquence 48.665 cents en monnaie d'or des Etats-Unis. En 1898, le prix des 100 livres de cacao était moyennement à Guayaquil de 25 à 30.5 sucres ou de $12.17 à $14.84.

La culture du cacao coûte très peu et les frais ne vont pas au delà de 6 à 7 "sucres" par 100 livres délivrées à Guayaquil. Dans ce prix sont compris: le ménagement, le nettoyage, le sarclage, la récolte, la dessication, les frais de transport et toutes les éventualités, exceptés les intérêts du capital placé.

La taxe imposée sur une plantation de cacao est un millième de dollar sur la valeur totale. Les taxes sur la production sont locales et varient de 30 à 50 cents par 100 livres. Tout le cacao raffiné dans la ville de Guayaquil paie à la municipalité 8 cents par 100 livres, dont 5 servent de subvention à l'Université de Guayaquil, Collège Saint-Vincent. Les droits d'exportation sont de $1.65 par quintal. Les dépenses du producteur comprennent le fret qui varie selon la distance de 30 cents à 1 dollar par quintal et aussi le vidage des sacs qui est de 5 cents par quintal. Les taxes pour la production sont généralement payées à Guayaquil et portées au crédit du compte-courrant des producteurs. Le rapport d'une plantation dépend, en grande partie, de la qualité de la terre, de l'aménagement et de la proximité du marché. D'après les chiffres qui ont été fournis au Consul par le Secrétaire de la Chambre

de Commerce de Guayaquil, ce fonctionnaire estime qu'une "hacienda" de 100,000 arbres produira 1,000 quintaux de cacao, qui, au prix courant du marché, déduction faite du maximum des dépenses, rapporteront un bénéfice de 40 à 50 pour cent par an sur le capital placé. Cette condition se prolongera un temps indéterminé, les cacaoyers vivant pendant plusieurs générations.

Dans son rapport, le Consul donne des renseignements complets au sujet des prix, du genre de travail, des titres des bien-fonds et des formalités pour les obtenir.

En 1897, la production de cacao du monde entier a été de 75,680 tonnes, dont 22,000 tonnes provenaient de l'Equateur; et à l'exception de 11,210 tonnes, tout le restant a été cultivé sur le Continent Américain. Il est bien entendu que ce nombre de tonnes ne comprend pas celles produites au Mexique et dans les Etats de l'Amérique Centrale, le cacao de ces pays suffisant seulement aux demandes locales. La récolte de l'Equateur a été distribuée de la manière suivante: Los Rios, 12,000 tonnes; Guayas, 4,000 tonnes; El Oro, 3,000 tonnes; Manavi, 2,000 tonnes; Esmeraldos, 800 tonnes. Depuis 1836 une augmentation s'est produite dans la production et on estime à 30,000 tonnes, le montant total de la récolte pour 1899. En 1836, 109,185 quintaux ont été récoltés; en 1898, la production s'est montée à 421,793 quintaux. Le commerce de cacao augmente tous les ans de 5 à 6 pour cent et on prétend qu'avant 8 ou 10 ans les demandes dépasseront de beaucoup l'approvisionnement.

Les essais qui ont été faits pour cultiver ce produit dans les autres pays tropicaux n'ont pas donné de résultats favorables. Dans n'importe quelle partie du monde, la culture du cacao ne peut atteindre les conditions favorables qui prévalent dans la République de l'Equateur, où il existe encore de vastes étendues de terre propice à ce genre de culture. Tout ce qui est nécessaire, ce sont l'énergie et les capitaux qui seront les bienvenus, et on croit qu'ils arriveront certainement quand la ligne de chemin de fer sera construite jusqu'à Quito, car aucun autre genre d'agriculture n'offre autant d'avantages.

L'ARBRE À MATELAS.

D'après un explorateur allemand, les Indiens de la Cordillère des Andes se confectionnent d'excellents matelas, voire des couvertures, avec l'écorce d'un arbre qu'ils appellent le "demajagua." Cette écorce a l'épaisseur d'une grosse flanelle, et, après un traitement spécial que lui font subir les indigènes, elle devient si douce, si flexible, qu'on peut la rouler et la plier sans le moindre inconvénient, absolument comme du feutre.

Les Indiens, pour obtenir la précieuse écorce, font une double entaille autour de l'arbre, à deux mètres environ d'intervalle, puis ils détachent avec soin l'enveloppe ligneuse à l'aide d'outils tranchants et la plongent dans l'eau pendant plusieurs heures. Enfin, ils raclent la partie

rugueuse extérieure et frappent sur l'écorce avec des marteaux spéciaux pous lui donner de la souplesse.

Il se fait, paraît-il, un grand commerce, dans la région des Andes, de ces matelas économiques.

GUATEMALA.

LA CULTURE DU CAOUTCHOUC.

Un article inséré le 12 août 1899 dans "l'Echo des deux Mondes" donne l'information suivante:

"Le Gouvernement Guatémalien, dans le but de favoriser la culture du caoutchouc, a décrété: (1°) Que la récolte du caoutchouc qui est très abondante dans les forêts de la côte ne sera autorisée que moyennant une licence du Gouvernement; (2°) qu'une prime consistant en une concession gratuite de 112 acres serait accordée aux propriétaires de chaque série de 20,000 arbres à caoutchouc âgés de trois à quatre ans, plantés après la mise en vigueur du décret précité."

NOUVELLE LIGNE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE.

Une ligne télégraphique a été établie entre Columbia et Retalhulen, et il est question aussi de construire une ligne de chemin de fer entre San Felipe et Quezaltenango.

L'Assemblée Nationale a clos ses sessions le 2 juin 1899, après avoir approuvé le budget des dépenses pour l'année courante, lequel s'élève à la somme de 11,597,650 dollars. Elle a aussi voté le traité d'amitié de commerce et de navigation, conclu avec le Nicaragua.

HAÏTI.

EMBARQUEMENT DE CAFÉ.

Conformément aux instructions qui lui ont été adressées le 22 juin 1899 par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et qui concernent les finances et le commerce, le "Bulletin International des Douanes" a publié l'avis suivant:

"À l'avenir l'embarquement du café assorti ne sera autorisé que dans la proportion de 10 sacs pour 100 sacs de café de bon débit, les deux espèces de café devant être embarquées simultanément. Le café assorti continuera à être sujet à un impôt de 2 "gourdes" or par 100 livres."

MEXIQUE.

YUCATAN—MARCHÉ POUR LA CORDE.

Par suite de la diminution des quantités de chanvre (hennequin) sur les marchés, beaucoup de fabricants et de négociants sont convaincus que les cultivateurs de chanvre (sisal) dans l'Etat de Yucatan possèdent seuls la clef de toute la situation. Les conditions actuelles de l'Etat de Yucatan et la bonne situation financière, dans laquelle se trouvent les producteurs de cet agavé, montrent que le prix actuel continue à se maintenir, sinon à augmenter. En 1897 le prix de cette fibre est tombé à 2¾ cents et est resté stationnaire pendant plusieurs mois. Le cultivateur n'avait donc qu'un très petit bénéfice après qu'il avait déduit les frais de transport et les droits de courtage, voir même si le prix moyen pour chaque livre produite n'avait pas excédé deux cents. Toutefois pendant l'année dernière une augmentation sensible s'est produite dans les prix estimés en juillet 1898 à 9½ cents, et depuis cette époque ils ne sont pas tombés au dessous de 5½ cents. Pendant les 18 mois qui viennent de s'écouler, le prix moyen perçu par les cultivateurs s'est maintenu à 6 cents environ, soit un bénéfice de 4 cents par livre. En admettant que la production du chanvre de Manille soit moins grande, les agents commerciaux qui ont visité récemment le Yucatan n'encouragent pas beaucoup ceux qui espèrent que le prix du chanvre de Yucatan (sisal) diminuera.

Un courtier de Londres, dans son rapport mensuel au sujet de la perspective d'une petite provision de chanvre (Manila) dépeint clairement la situation comme il suit:

Le monde consume annuellement, dit-il, 9,000,000 ballots. La production en 1897 et 1898 a été respectivement 875,000 et 742,000 ballots, tandis que l'année courante montrera, en toute probabilité, une plus grande dépression, les recettes en ce moment étant seulement 316,000 ballots. Les réserves qui existent entre les mains des consommateurs diminuent de plus en plus et dans quelques régions sont complètement épuisées.

Dans des conditions normales, le prix de la fibre à la fin de la moisson a une tendance naturelle vers la récession, mais ce n'est pas le cas actuellement; au contraire, le chanvre de Manille (Manila) et en conséquence celui de Yucatan (sisal) augmentent simultanément et constamment.

Les renseignements télégraphiques reçus de Manille à la date du 31 juillet montre une augmentation de 16,000 ballots pendant la dernière semaine de juillet finissant le 29 du dit mois; le stock à Manille étant net de 93,000 ballots au lieu de 135,000 en 1897 et environ autant en 1898. Le total des chargements pour les sept premiers mois de l'année a été de 100,000 ballots de moins que celui de l'année dernière, le total

depuis le 1er janvier s'étant monté à 148,000 ballots. La valeur du chanvre de Yucatan (sisal) expédié annuellement de cet état est estimée à $16,000,000.

En conséquence de ces conditions, des expériences ont été faites avec de nombreuses plantes fibreuses que l'on affirme pouvoir être manufactureés pour les marchés, le plus important de ces agavés étant le "wire grass" qui pousse dans la partie occidentale des Etats-Unis et qui, jusqu'à présent, a été considéré comme n'ayant aucune valeur.

À ce sujet, il est intéressant de remarquer l'augmentation de la valeur du "sisal" mexicain pendant l'année courante en comparaison de celle des années 1897 et 1898. D'après le Bureau de la Statistique du Ministère des Finances, la quantité importée pendant les sept premiers mois de l'année 1897 s'est montée à 39,980 tonnes, évaluées à $2,421,735, et pendant la même période de l'année 1898 la quantité s'est élevée à 43,060 tonnes, dont la valeur ($4,563,370) excède celle de 1897 de $2,141,635, tandis que les 7 mois de 1899 indiquent une plus grande disproportion en valeur et en quantité, 39,305 tonnes ayant été reçues et dont la valeur totale est représentée comme étant presque deux fois celle de 1897 ou $4,999,392.

Le chanvre (Manila) montre la même augmentation, les chiffres pendant les sept mois de 1898 et de 1897 étant respectivement 27,088 tonnes, évaluées à $1,781,058 et 38,182 tonnes avec une évaluation de $3,120,261.

LA SITUATION ÉCONOMIQUE.

Mr. LÉON SCHOENFELD, Vice-Consul de France à Tampico (Mexique), dans un récent rapport qu'il a adressé à son Gouvernement, traite de la situation économique du Mexique qui est en train de se modifier, dit-il, par suite du développement qu'a pris depuis quelques années le commerce d'exportation. Il parle de la valeur de la piastre qui, il y a six mois, était de 2.35 francs et qui vaut aujourd'hui 2.51 francs et qui arrivera, suivant l'avis des banquiers, à 3 francs avant la fin de l'année. Le café mexicain, ajoute-t-il, qui en 1895 se vendait couramment 30 piastres, est tombé aujourd'hui de 15 à 18 piastres et il attribue cette baisse à la production des cafés brésiliens qui suffit seule à la consommation du monde, et tandis que le planteur brésilien paie en papier au change de 425 à 450 pour cent, le mexicain paie en piastres au change de 98 à 102 pour cent. Le premier trouve donc bénéfice à vendre ses produits à New-York 7 dollars or, tandis que le second, vendant au même prix, perd ou ne gagne rien.

Au sujet de la canne à sucre, Mr. LÉON SCHOENFELD dit qu'elle restera rénumératrice jusqu'au jour où la production sera supérieure à la consommation locale et où le sucre mexicain devra être exporté. Ce fonctionnaire remarque qu'une augmentation considérable dans le prix des denrées de première nécessité est constatée dans tous les centres, que la main-d'œuvre est toujours rare et a une tendance manifeste à la

hausse. Il parle des gelées très fortes qui ont désolé la côte du golfe depuis Coatzacoalcos jusqu'à Soto-la-Marina et il estime que les pertes de récoltes entre Veralmy et Tuxpam ne sont pas inférieures à 9 milliards de piastres, ce qui arrêtera, d'après lui, le mouvement d'immigration qui s'était accentué depuis 1894. Il pense que la plantation du café ne peut plus donner de résultats satisfaisants qu'à ceux qui sont déjà depuis longtemps propriétaires de plantation et à la condition, toutefois, que ces plantations ne soient pas éloignées des voies ferrées ou des rares cours d'eau navigables.

Le Vice-Consul est certain que l'élevage et l'engrais du bétail à cornes, la production minière sur les côtes et les contreforts des montagnes et la culture des céréales ont un bel avenir et sont destinés à devenir les principales sources de richesse du Mexique. Les luzernes donnent les meilleurs résultats. En parlant du climat, sur la côte du golfe, ce même fonctionnaire dit qu'il est incontestablement malsain et ne peut être affronté que par les personnes qui ont une constitution robuste. Néanmoins, il est nécessaire, dit-il, pour y résister de se soumettre à un régime hygiénique sévère et d'habiter des maisons élevées à environ un mètre au-dessus du sol.

RESSOURCES DE L'ETAT DE TABASCO.

Mr. MARTIN, Agent Consulaire de France à San Juan Bautista, vient de faire parvenir à son Gouvernement un compte rendu des ressources de l'Etat de Tabasco, de son industrie, de son commerce et des produits de cette partie du Mexique. Tabasco, écrit cet agent, est de tous les Etats de la République Mexicaine le plus fertile et se fait remarquer par sa riche végétation; son climat et sa topographie font de ce pays une région privilégiée pour le développement de l'agriculture. Tous les produits des tropiques peuvent être cultivés à Tabasco; le maïs, le haricot, le riz, le cacao, le café, la canne à sucre, le caoutchouc, le poivre, le tabac, la vanille, la banane, le coco, l'orange, etc. Avec des semences choisies on pourrait, dit-il, produire à Tabasco des tabacs défiant toute concurrence. Le cacao de Tabasco est reconnu comme le meilleur du monde entier, mais il est très peu cultivé et ne suffit pas aux besoins du pays. Les cafiers produisent dès la troisième année, les terrains étant propices; le caoutchouc est un produit du plus grand avenir. Le sol de Tabasco, ajoute-t-il, est on ne peut plus favorable à la culture de la canne à sucre et de nombreux champs en exploitation existent depuis 20, 30, et 40 ans et donnent un excellent rendement. La vanille, comme le caoutchouc, pousse dans les forêts à l'état sauvage et sa culture serait des plus faciles.

En traitant dans son rapport la question industrielle, cet Agent Consulaire fait part à son Gouvernement de l'existence dans l'Etat de Tabasco de quelques industries dont la plus importante est l'exploitation de l'acajou et du cèdre des forêts vierges et celles des bois de teinture dits de campêche. Le tabac en feuilles est également exporté, ainsi que

quelques produits manufacturés pour New-York et l'Europe. Mr. MARTIN ajoute qu'il y a aussi à Tabasco des fabriques de tuiles, de briques, de bougies, de savon et d'allumettes et que toutes ces fabriques donnent de beaux résultats; il dit aussi que le commerce de Tabasco a pris, depuis quelques années, un développement surprenant et que l'importation des produits étrangers augmente chaque année. Les machines, les meubles, divers outils pour l'agriculture, quelques cotonnades, différents tissus etc., sont fournis par l'Amérique du Nord et la plus grande partie des marchandises importées proviennent d'Espagne. Les vins, les liqueurs, les parfums et quelques bijoux de fantaisies proviennent de France, tandis que l'Allemagne envoie des articles en fer blanc. Pour conclure, Mr. MARTIN ne croit pas exagérer en prédisant que le commerce de Tabasco, avant peu d'années, aura triplé son activité et ses produits.

ORGANISATION D'UNE SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'EXPLOITATION DES MINES DE PLOMB.

Pendant le mois de juillet 1899, la "Mexican Lead Company" a déposé à Trenton, New Jersey (Etats-Unis), le dossier comprenant tous les documents et actes relatifs à l'incorporation de la société. Cette compagnie, organisée par Mr. ROBERT S. TOWNE, Président de la Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Nord du Mexique (The Northern Railway Company of Mexico), et par d'autres personnes intéressées dans la "Compañía Metalúrgica Mexicana," possède un capital évalué à $7,000,000 et exploitera les mines de plomb dans les environs de Monterey.

La Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Nord du Mexique (The Mexican Northern Railway Company) a construit une voie ferrée destinée à desservir cette nouvelle exploitation. Le même syndicat qui contrôle cette ligne a aussi la direction de "Alvarez Land and Timber Company" et de "Sombrerete Mining Company."

NOUVELLE COMPAGNIE DE CHEMIN DE FER.

Le "Mexican Mineral Railroad Company" vient de constituer une société au capital de 350,000 dollars. La ligne ferrée toute entière sera située dans l'Etat de Nuevo León et s'étendra depuis la ville de Monterey jusqu'aux minières du district de San Pedro. Les noms des Directeurs sont: GEORGE D. COOK et GEORGE B. TURNER, de Chicago; WILLIAM F. GILLESBY, ROBERT S. TOWNE, CHARLES J. NOURSE, Jr., GEORGE F. PEABODY, EDWARD M. SHEPARD, ACOSTA NICHOLS et CHARLES J. PEABODY, de New-York.

CONCESSION DES EAUX DE LA RIVIÈRE BLANCO.

Un américain des plus connus, Mr. ROBERT MAXWELL, qui habite au Mexique, vient d'obtenir du Gouvernement Mexicain le privilége d'utiliser comme force hydraulique les eaux de la rivière Blanco, à un

endroit connu sous le nom de Los Mixos au-dessous de la chute du Tuxpango, dans le district de Orizaba, Etat de Vera Cruz. Conformément aux clauses et conditions qui régissent cette importante concession, les travaux devront commencer dans six mois, les plans des travaux d'amélioration seront soumis au Gouvernement pour être approuvés dans les douze mois et la construction des machines hydrauliques et électriques devra commencer dans l'année, immédiatement après l'approbation des plans. Tous les travaux devront être terminés et les machines mises en mouvement dans l'espace de six ans. Les travaux de construction s'exécuteront sous la surveillance de l'inspecteur du Gouvernement.

LE PREMIER TRAMWAY ÉLECTRIQUE AU MEXIQUE.

Le 16 septembre prochain aura lieu dans la ville du Mexique l'inauguration officielle du premier tramway électrique construit dans cette ville. Les travaux pour l'introduction de l'électricité dans le vieux système de "The Federal District Street Railway Company" de cette ville se poursuivent avec la plus grande énergie. Une grande partie du matériel qui a été commandé aux Etats-Unis est déjà sur place et presque toutes les lignes, y compris celles qui mettent en communication Guadeloupe avec San Angel en passant par Peralvillo, Zocalo, le sud de la porte de Piedad, les environs de Tacubaya, San Pedro et Mixcoac, sont déjà construites. Les poteaux pour les fils conducteurs sont, en grande partie, posés.

CAOUTCHOUC—SA CULTURE.

D'après "Le Nouveau Monde" du 12 août 1899, une grande quantité de jeunes plantes de caoutchouc seraient parvenues au Ministère de Fomento. Ces plantes seront distribuées à tous les agriculteurs qui en feront la demande et qui s'engageront à les cultiver. Ces plantes sont d'une varieté spéciale et on assure qu'elles prospéreront merveilleusement dans les régions tropicales du Mexique.

LA CONSTRUCTION DES CHEMINS DE FER.

D'après le chiffre fourni par le Journal "Le Nouveau Monde" à la date du 26 août 1899, la construction des chemins de fer au Mexique va tous les jours croissant. En effet, on a construit au Mexique du 1er janvier 1899 au 30 juin de la même année, 439 kilomètres de chemins de fer qui, pour les trois quarts, sont munis d'une ligne télégraphique.

NOUVELLE COMPAGNIE DE CHARBON.

Le "Nouveau Monde," dans son numéro du 26 août 1899, annonce qu'une compagnie anglaise vient de se constituer, au capital de 600,000 livres sterling, soit trois millions de piastres environ, dans le but d'exploiter les gisements de charbon du district d'Aclatan, dans l'Etat de Puebla.

UNE NOUVELLE BANQUE À PUEBLA.

Le même journal nous informe qu'un Mr. RICARDO SERRANO, un des riches commerçants de Puebla, a l'intention de créer une banque locale dans cette ville. Il est en train d'organiser une société au capital d'un million de piastres, et a déjà recueilli pour plus de $500,000 de souscriptions, entre un petit groupe de capitalistes. Cette nouvelle banque aura pour but de faciliter las entreprises agricoles, commerciales et industrielles dans cet Etat.

VENTE DE TERRAINS NATIONAUX.

Pendant le premier semestre de l'année courante le Ministère de "Fomento" a aliéné 188,180 hectares de terrains nationaux au prix de $174,988, soit 433,978 francs au change actuel; le prix de vente de l'hectare a donc été en moyenne de 2.30 francs. Ces terrains ont été fractionnés en 104 lots. Ils sont situés dans le territoire de la Basse-Californie et les Etats de Campêche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Veracruz, Yucatan, Michoacan, Nuevo-Leon, Oaxaca et Tamaulipas.

PROJET DE CHEMIN DE FER.

Plusieurs propriétaires de grandes haciendas, situées entre La Honda et Saltillo (Etat de Coahuila), se sont réunis dernièrement pour former une société qui relierait par une voie ferrée les deux villes que nous venons de citer.

On pense qu'ils pourront réunir entre eux un capital suffisant pour construire ce chemin de fer, qui leur permettra d'amener plus facilement leurs produits dans un grand centre.

PÉROU.

REPRÉSENTATION DU PÉROU À L'EXPOSITION DE 1900.

Il existe au Pérou un grand enthousiasme pour prendre part à l'Exposition de 1900 à Paris. De nombreuses demandes d'admissions ont été adressées pendant le mois de juin dernier à Mr. le Directeur-Secrétaire de l'Institut technique. Cette société savante déploie la plus grande activité, non seulement pour que le Pérou soit représenté le mieux possible à l'Exposition de 1900, mais encore pour que les produits à exposer soient prêts à temps. Un plan général en relief du bassin minéral du Cerro de Pasco est en préparation et sera remis au Pavillon du Pérou, à Paris, accompagné de nombreux et magnifiques échantillons de minerais. L'exposition de Trujillo qui doit servir de base pour celle du Pérou à Paris reçoit constamment de riches et abondants produits. Le chiffre des exposants se monte en ce moment à 113, divisés comme suit: industrie agricole, 33; mines, 20; manufactures, 43; le reste appartenant à des institutions nationales ou sociétés diverses.

ETATS-UNIS.

RESSOURCES MINÉRALES EN 1898.

Un extrait du 20e rapport officiel des ressources minières des Etats-Unis a été livré au public le 22 août 1899 par le service géologique et donne la production minérale des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1898.

Un examen minutieux de ces statistiques montre que depuis 1880 la valeur totale des produits minéraux du pays a augmenté d'environ 90 per cent ou de $369,319,000 à $697,880,002.

On peut déduire de ces chiffres que l'augmentation moyenne annuelle pendant ces 19 années a été de $18,000,000, mais de 1893 à 1898 elle a été d'environ $25,000,000. Bien que l'augmentation normale annuelle peut se trouver quelque part entre ces deux chiffres, les totaux généraux indiquent une grande irrégularité. De 1894 à 1895, l'augmentation a été environ de $100,000,000 et pour les années suivantes elle n'a été seulement qu'un peu plus de $1,000,000; mais de 1892 à 1894, à cause de la dépression des cours des marchés, une diminution de plus de $121,000,000 s'est produite. De 1896 à 1897 l'augmentation a été d'environ $8,000,000, soit 1.3 pour cent, tandis que de 1897 à 1898 elle a été de $66,970,534 ou plus de deux fois et demie l'augmentation moyenne annuelle de 1893 à 1898, ce qui démontre d'une manière authentique un accroissement de 11 pour cent sur l'année 1897.

La production totale de l'année 1898 a été la plus forte qui ait jamais été constatée dans les annales du pays, dépassant même celle de 1892 qui jusque là occupait la première place avec un excédent sur les années précédentes de $50,000,000 environ. Ceci est dû à un accroissement de tous les produits minéraux en général et dont les plus importants ont augmenté considérablement, presque tous rapportant quelque bénéfice.

A ce sujet, il est intéressant de noter que les chiffres obtenus par les compilateurs du Volume VII de "L'Industrie Minière," un ouvrage de plusieurs centaines de pages, publié peu de temps avant le rapport du Gouvernement, sont d'accord substantiellement avec les statistiques officielles. Tous deux montrent que, pendant l'année 1898, les Etats-Unis ont été de beaucoup les plus grands producteurs de fer et d'acier mais qu'ils venaient seulement après la Grande-Bretagne pour la production du charbon. Les Etats-Unis fournissent aussi plus de la moitié de l'approvisionnement de cuivre. Aucune nation ne peut rivaliser avec les Etats-Unis pour les minéraux dont la valeur se montait en 1898 à $697,880,002, tandis qu'en 1897 elle ne s'élevait qu'à $630,909,468.

Tous les produits métalliques se sont élevés en 1898 à une valeur de $344,096,130, tandis qu'en 1897 elle n'était que de $302,198,502, soit un bénéfice de $41,897,628 pour 1898. Tous les métaux, à l'exception du nickel, ont augmenté de valeur; le cuivre, le plomb, le zinc, l'aluminium

et l'antimoine ont atteint leur maximum comme valeur et production, mais tandis que la production du saumon de fonte en 1898 dépassait celles des autres années, la valeur de ce métal a été cependant considérablement moindre que celle des années 1890 ou 1892, quoiqu'en 1898 un surcroît de $21,434,700 sur l'année 1897 ait été constaté, ou plus de la moitié de l'augmentation totale des produits métalliques depuis 1897 jusqu'à 1898.

En 1898 les produits non métalliques ont augmenté de 25,072,906 dollars, ce chiffre étant la différence entre les produits de 1897 ($327,710,966) et ceux de 1898 ($352,783,872), soit un gain en faveur de 1898 de $25,072,906. Le produit qui a le plus contribué à ce gain a été le charbon bitumineux qui en 1897 a produit $119,567,224 et en 1898 $132,586,318, soit une augmentation en 1898 de $13,019,089. Cependant, une diminution de $4,000,000 s'est produite dans la valeur de l'anthracite, quoique la quantité produite ait augmenté de 688,361 "long tons."

Les autres produits dont la valeur a augmenté considérablement ont été: la pierre, le pétrole, le gaz naturel et les eaux minérales.

Les chiffres officiels de la production et de la valeur des principaux minéraux ont été les suivants: Fer et acier; saumon de fonte, 11,773,934 "long tons" au lieu de 9,652,680 "long tons" en 1897; la valeur moyenne par tonne a augmenté de la différence entre le chiffre de 1897 ($9.85) et celui de 1898 ($9.90); les lingots d'acier Bessemer, 6,609,017 tonnes, soit une augmentation de 1,133,702 tonnes; l'acier fabriqué par le procédé "Open hearth," 2,230,290 "long tons," soit une augmentation de 621,621 tonnes, qui équivalent à 35 pour cent; minerais de fer, 19,278,369 "long tons," évaluées à $22,012,542, soit un gain de 1,760,323 "long lons" et une augmentation dans la valeur de $3,059,321; la tonne du minerai de fer valant en moyenne en 1898 $1.14 au lieu de $1.08 en 1897.

La production de l'or a augmenté régulièrement; sa valeur a été de $64,463,000 et la quantité de 3,118,398 Troy onces. La production en 1897 s'est montée à 2,774,935 Troy onces evaluées à $57,363,000. La production de l'argent en 1897 était de 53,860,000 Troy onces, avec une valeur monétaire de $69,637,172; en 1898 elle s'élevait à 54,438,000 Troy onces, avec une valeur monétaire de $70,384,485, soit une augmentation en faveur de 1898. Cependant, la valeur commerciale de ce produit a diminué de $197,580, qui est la différence entre $33,316,000 et $32,118,420. Les Etats-Unis produisent la plus grande quantité d'argent dans le monde, quoiqu'ils soient suivis de très près par le Mexique.

La production du cuivre a été en 1897 de 494,078,274 livres, évaluées à $54,080,180; en 1898 elle se montait à 526,512,987 livres, évaluées à $61,865,276, soit une augmentation en 1898. Cet accroissement s'est fait principalement remarqué dans l'Arizona et le Michigan, tandis que dans le Montana une diminution a été constatée. Le prix moyen par livre en 1898 a été de 11.75 cents; en 1897 il valait 11 cents et en 1896,

10.5 cents. C'est la plus forte quantité et la plus grande valeur qui aient jamais été obtenues. La rareté actuelle du cuivre, la hausse du prix et l'accroissement énorme des spéculations de Bourse ne se sont développés qu'à la fin de l'année et n'ont eu aucun effet appréciable sur les statistiques. Quoiqu'une grande activité ait été déployée dans les recherches des nouvelles mines de cuivre, les produits de 1899 n'augmenteront pas matériellement, à cause du temps exigé pour commencer l'exploitation et installer les machines pour l'extraction du minerai.

En 1898 les Etats-Unis ont produit 231,269 "short tons" de plomb, tandis que la production du même minerai ne s'élevait pendant l'année précédente quà 212,000 "short tons." La valeur a aussi augmenté en 1898 de la différence entre $14,885,728 en 1897 et $17,345,175 en 1898. La plus grande partie de l'augmentation provient du Colorado et de Utah; il y a eu aussi une petite augmentation dans la production du Missouri. Les produits de Montana ont diminué de 2,000 tonnes environ. En dehors de ce qui a été dit ci-dessus, les chargeurs américains ont recueilli en 1898, 89,209 tonnes de plomb des minerais étrangers et des lingots non précieux. Le prix moyen du plomb à New-York était 3.78 cents par livre au lieu de 3.58 cents en 1897.

La production du zinc a aussi augmenté et s'élevait à 115,399 tonnes de 2,000 livres, évaluées à $10,385,910, tandis qu'en 1897 elle n'était que de 99,980 tonnes, estimées à $8,498,300. Cette quantité est aussi la plus grande qui ait été produite dans le pays. La quantité de minerai de zinc exporté a été de 11,782 "short tons," évaluées à $299,870, mais en 1897 elle était de 9,251 tonnes, évaluées à $211,350. La plupart du minerai exporté a été extrait des mines de New-Jersey, mais presque tout le restant de la production de 1898 a été obtenu des minerais extraits dans les Etats de Missouri et de Kansas.

La production du vif-argent qui en 1897 diminuait s'est sensiblement améliorée en 1898 et a augmenté de 26,648 à 31,092 bouteilles. Sa valeur a augmenté de $993,445 à $1,188,627. La valeur de chaque bouteille en 1897 était de $37.28; en 1898 elle s'élevait à $38.23. Ce produit est trouvé principalement en Californie.

La production de l'aluminium en 1898 était 5,200,000 livres, évaluées à 1,716,000 dollars; celle de 1897 se montait à 4,000,000 livres, valant $1,500,000. Etant donnée la cherté du cuivre, l'aluminium a été substitué à ce métal dans de nombreux cas.

Le total de la production de l'antimoine se montait en 1898 à 2,240,000 livres, ayant une valeur de $184,050; en 1897 la quantité produite ne s'élevait qu'à 1,512,000 livres, évaluées à $109,655, et environ 80 pour cent de ces produits provenaient des mines étrangères. La quantité d'antimoine extrait en 1898 aux États-Unis était de 697 "short tons."

La production du manganèse en 1898 a été la plus abondante depuis 1891, mais quoiqu'elle dépassât de plus de 44 pour cent, celle de 1897 (de 11,108 à 15,957 "long tons"). elle n'atteignait pas les deux tiers

de celles des années 1889–1890 et 1891. La valeur du manganèse était en 1898 de $129,185; en 1897, $95,505.

La production domestique du nickel est insignifiante, si on la compare à la quantité de nickel qui se consomme annuellement, le marché étant approvisionné principalement par le Canada. Le total a diminué de la différence entre les 23,707 livres produites en 1897 et les 13,411 livres, recueillies en 1898. La plus grande partie du nickel produit dans le pays provient de l'Etat de Minnesota. D'après les rapports des rafineries des Etats-Unis, 1,738,929 livres de nickel ont été produites; dans ce chiffre sont compris les minerais importés et ceux du pays. Le prix courant à New-York était, en 1898, 34.5 cents la livre; celui de 1897, 34.63 cents la livre.

En 1898 le produit combiné d'anthracite et de charbon bitumineux était de 196,405,953 "long tons," équivalant à 219,974,667 "short tons," soit une augmentation de 9½ pour cent. Du total général, 148,742,878 "long tons" étaient bitumineuses. La production de 1898 dépassait celle de 1897 de 17,636,609 "long tons" ou 19,753,002 "short tons" et se composait exclusivement de charbon bitumineux. La valeur des produits n'a pas augmenté tout à fait de 5 pour cent pendant l'année, soit de $198,869,178 à $208,000,850.

Pendant nombre d'années qui ont précédé 1898, les marchands ne pouvaient pas vendre tout le charbon bitumineux qui se trouvait sur le marché, l'approvisionnement étant plus considérable que les demandes; mais en 1898 ces conditions changèrent complètement et au lieu de se batailler pour obtenir de nouveaux marchés et garder les vieux, les marchands furent incapables, pendant un certain temps, de satisfaire promptement aux ordres de leurs clients; et cela à cause des nombreuses demandes de combustible faites par les entreprises industrielles de fer et d'acier et autres, tout le long de l'année, aussi bien pendant la saison d'hiver que la saison d'été. Presque tous les ouvriers ayant été employés dans les autres industries, il a été très difficile de se procurer assez de mineurs pour exploiter les mines. Malgré cela, le prix moyen du charbon bitumineux a diminué de la différence entre le prix de 1897 (81 cents) et celui de 1898 (80 cents), cette baisse de prix continuant ainsi depuis l'année 1897. La cause de cette baisse est due aux machines employées qui diminuent la main-d'œuvre. Parmi les 30 Etats producteurs, il y en a eu 22, en 1898, qui ont fourni la plus grande quantité de charbon qu'ils aient jamais produite.

Au sujet de la production du coke, l'année a été aussi d'une activité sans exemple. Elle a dépassé de 2,758,225 "short tons" ou de la différence entre 13,288,984 et 16,047,200, la quantité produite en 1897. Cet accroissement est dû directement à l'impulsion donnée par les manufactures de fer et d'acier.

La valeur de la production du pétrole brut a augmenté pendant l'année de $3,253,748 ou de la différence entre le chiffre de 1897, 40,929,611 dollars, et celui de 1898, 44,183,359 dollars. Tandis que le produit

augmentait de valeur, le nombre de barils diminuait de la différence entre 60,568,081 et 55,354,233.

Avec l'épuisement graduel, la quantité du gaz naturel continue à diminuer, mais sa valeur a augmenté en 1898 de la différence entre $13,826,422 et $14,750,000.

Quant aux matériaux de construction, la valeur de la pierre a augmenté de la différence entre $34,667,772 et $36,607,264; celle de l'ardoise, de la différence entre $780,112 et $1,370,075; l'argile, y compris la faïence, de la différence entre $62,359,991 et $71,597,380; le ciment de Portland (avec un gain de 1,014,509 barils) de $4,315,891 à $5,970,773; la valeur du ciment naturel a diminué de la différence entre $3,862,392 et $3,810,728.

L'abrasion qui comprend: les meules de moulin, les pierres meulières, le corindon, l'émeri ou pierre à polir, la pierre à huile ou d'Orient, le jaspe et le grenat a augmenté de la différence entre $754,222 et $1,075,046.

Le total de la production des matières chimiques comprenant les roches phosphatées, le gypse, le brome, le borax, le spath fluor, le soufre, le pyrite de fer employé dans la fabrication de l'acide sulfurique s'est monté à $6,145,165 au lieu de $5,112,450 en 1897. Le sel, qui est aussi compris sous le titre général "Matières chimiques," a produit 17,612,634 barils de 280 livres chacun, la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été obtenue; la production de 1897 n'était que 15,973,202 barils. Le prix du sel a augmenté de 15 pour cent et le total de l'augmentation était, en 1898, la différence entre $4,920,020 et $6,212,554. Les producteurs ont touché par baril un prix moyen de 35.3 cents.

La production de la plus grande partie des pigments comprenant la peinture métallique, l'ocre, l'ombre, la terre de Sienne, le rouge vénitien, le blanc de zinc, l'oxyde de barium, la céruse, le minium, la litharge, l'oxide de plomb (orange minérale), l'oxide de cobalt a diminué, mais étant donnée l'augmentation qui s'est produite dans la valeur du blanc de zinc (de $1,750,000 à $2,310,000), le total général s'est monté en 1898 à $3,124.967, tandis qu'en 1897 il ne s'élevait qu'à $2,635,320.

Pendant l'année 1898 les pierres précieuses ont vu leur valeur augmenter, montant à $160,920, tandis qu'en 1897 la valeur était de $130,675. Les événements importants de l'année ont été: la découverte de cristaux de roche dans l'Etat de la Californie, qui égalent presque ceux du Japon; le succès obtenu aux Etats-Unis avec la taille de ces cristaux quelques uns de 7 pouces de diamètre; l'augmentation des saphirs de Montana; l'extraction continue des mines de turquoise du Mexique; la découverte de tourmalines dans le Maine et le Connecticut; la grande augmentation dans les importations de diamants et de grands progrès dans l'industrie de la taille des diamants.

En 1897 il s'est vendu 23,255,911 gallons d'eaux minérales, d'une valeur de $4,559,106; en 1898 les ventes se sont montées à $8,051,833 pour 28,863,464 gallons, soit une augmentation de 25 pour cent en gallons et de 75.07 pour cent en valeur.

Les produits divers qui comprennent la terre à foulon, la mica, le feldspath, le silex, l'asphalte, l'asbeste, le graphite, la pierre savonneuse, la magnésite, la pierre calcaire ou pierre à chaux pour la fusion du fer, le "bauxite" et le "monazite" ont augmenté de valeur pendant l'année de la différence entre $3,565,116 et $4,105,898. La quantité d'asbeste importé aux Etats-Unis, et qui provient pour la plupart du Canada, s'est élevée en 1898 à $300,533, tandis qu'en 1897 elle se montait à $268,264.

La revue "Mineral Industry" énumère les nouveaux produits ci-après désignés: 2,100 livres de ferro-molybdène, à 50 cents la livre; 9,550 livres de molybdène, à environ $1.25 la livre. Elle donne aussi la quantité de platine produite, qui est de 300 "Troy onces," tandis qu'en 1897 elle ne s'élevait qu'à 200 "Troy onces." Le platine en barres valait à New-York $12.79 l'once et en 1897 il ne coûtait que $12.34.

D'après les statistiques du Service Géologique, la quantité de platine brut, sur le marché de San Francisco, était en 1897 de 150 "Troy onces," évaluées à $900; en 1898 la quantité du même métal s'est montée à 225 "Troy onces," évaluées à $1,913, soit environ un peu plus de $8.50 par once.

RELATIONS COMMERCIALES EN AMÉRIQUE.

Le Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce et des Finances des Etats-Unis pour le mois de juin 1899, publié par le Bureau de la Statistique du Ministère des Finances, contient un article sur le commerce des Etats-Unis avec les pays américains situés au sud de l'Union, un commerce qui, dit le rapport, a été longtemps un objet de sollicitude de la part des hommes d'Etat, des économistes et des hommes d'affaires.

Comme les statistiques le démontrent, les affaires commerciales avec les peuples qui parlent la langue anglaise au nord des Etats-Unis, ont augmenté rapidement et ont été réciproquement statisfaisantes; avec ceux qui parlent une langue étrangère et qui occupent les territoires voisins au sud, le progrès a été plus lent et moins sensible et le commerce diminue au fur et à mesure que les distances augmentent.

Les Etats-Unis ont fourni à l'Amérique Anglaise 59 pour cent du total des importations des denrées destinées à la consommation; 49 pour cent au Mexique, également voisin, mais parlant une langue différente; aux Etats de l'Amérique Centrale, qui sont après les plus éloignés, mais dont l'accès est facile par mer et qui sont maintenant desservis par des chemins de fer, 37 pour cent; à la Colombie, un peu plus éloignée mais également accessible par eau, 33 pour cent; au Venezuela, où l'on peut aussi arriver facilement, 27 pour cent; aux Antilles, 20 pour cent; à la Guyane Anglaise, 25 pour cent; à la Guyane Hollandaise, 17 pour cent, et moins de 6 pour cent à la Guyane Française. Le trafic entre les Etats-Unis et les pays cités plus haut a pris une extension assez grande quoiqu'il soit admis qu'un accroissement encore plus considérable peut être raisonnablement espéré avec de si proches voisins, étant donné le

fait que les Etats-Unis achètent dans ces pays beaucoup plus qu'ils y vendent. Mais ces conditions, en quelque sorte peu avantageuses, sont acceptables quand on les compare avec les relations commerciales qui existent entre les Etats-Unis et les pays de l'Amérique du Sud qui bordent l'Atlantique et l'Océan Pacifique.

En 1897 les marchandises importées par le Brésil se sont montées à plus de $105,000,000, dont seulement 12 pour cent ont été suppléées par les Etats-Unis; l'Uruguay et le Paraguay, $22,000,000, dont 7 pour cent provenaient des Etats-Unis; la République Argentine, $95,000,000, dont moins de 7 pour cent venaient des Etats-Unis. Sur la côte du Pacifique, les importations du Chili ont été évaluées à $24,000,000; celles du Pérou à $8,500,000; de la Bolivie, à $11,600,000, et de l'Ecuador, à $7,000,000, la proportion des Etats-Unis étant seulement 10 pour cent. Ainsi, les pays des côtes du nord de l'Amérique du Sud achètent pour $36,000,000 de marchandises, dont 25 pour cent sont fournies par les Etats-Unis; les pays qui sont sur les côtes orientales importent $222,000,000, et ceux des côtes occidentales $51,000,000, la proportion des Etats-Unis sur chaque côte étant de 10 pour cent environ.

Un examen de la liste des marchandises achetées par les Etats-Unis et qui proviennent des pays de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud semble augmenter l'anomalie que présente la paucité des achats réciproques. Les Etats-Unis sont à la tête de tous les acquéreurs de café et de caoutchouc exportés du Brésil et du Mexique et qui sont les principaux articles que ces pays produisent et exportent. Ils achètent aussi une grande quantité de marchandises de la République Argentine et du Chili; et pour l'Amérique du Sud en général, il existe aux Etats-Unis un marché qui devient tous les jours de plus en plus important pour les sucres, les épices, les fruits, les bois de teinture, les bois chimiques et tous les autres produits tropicaux. Pendant l'année fiscale 1897, les produits que les Etats-Unis se sont procurés des pays qui s'étendent le long des côtes des Océans Atlantique et Pacifique, ont été évalués à $88,408,119, tandis que ceux vendus dans ces pays, pendant la même période, ne se sont montés qu'à $24,480,013.

En 1898, quoique les Etats-Unis aient exporté au monde entier deux fois la valeur des marchandises importées, les ventes aux pays de l'Amérique du Sud, à l'exception de ceux qui sont baignés par la mer des Antilles, n'étaient encore qu'un tiers du montant des achats faits dans ces pays. L'augmention des exportations entre les ports des Etats-Unis, de l'Amérique Centrale, des Républiques de la Colombie et de Venezuela, qui sont situés le long de la mer des Antilles et qui sont desservis assez fréquemment par un service de bateaux à vapeur, est assez satisfaisante, mais en ce qui concerne le reste des pays de l'Amérique du Sud, les conditions deviennent tous les ans de plus en plus mauvaises.

Dans le but d'améliorer cet état d'affaires et d'encourager un commerce réciproque en Amérique, le "Bulletin Mensuel du Bureau des Républiques Américaines" a publié à différentes reprises des articles appelant l'attention des importateurs de l'Amérique du Sud sur la pré-

pondérance des manufactures et des produits des Etats-Unis sur les marchés européens et autres marchés du continent. Les détails des importations des pays de l'Amérique du Sud indiquent que si les Etats-Unis possédaient des facilités de transport, ils pourraient suppléer aisément et au delà les besoins des marchés de ces pays. Ceci donne une idée des avantages auxquels on peut s'attendre aux Etats-Unis, particulièrement en ce qui concerne le commerce avec les pays de la côte occidentale de l'Amérique du Sud, quand le canal Isthmien aura été, achevé, dont les cartes et tous les détails ont été donnés dans le BULLETIN du mois de septembre 1897, pages 323–337.

La différence qui existe entre les distances que parcourt maintenant le trafic des sections est et sud des Etats-Unis avec les côtes occidentales de l'Amérique du Sud, comme le Bureau des Républiques Américaines l'a fait si souvent remarqué, et celles qui deviendront praticables au moyen du canal isthmien est aussi frappante qu'autrefois. Etant donné que l'isthme de Panama s'étend presque directement au sud des ports des Etats-Unis sur la côte de l'Atlantique et que tout le trafic avec la côte occidentale de l'Amérique du Sud est obligé de parcourir une distance de 2,600 milles dans la direction est et de refaire le même chemin pour retourner vers la côte occidentale, il est évident que la perte de temps et les dépenses considérables occasionnées pour atteindre les ports des Républiques Sœurs s'amélioreraient sensiblement si un canal traversait l'isthme sur un point quelconque.

A part cela et quoique les moyens de transport qui existent soient jugés insuffisants, tout le commerce d'exportation et d'importation entre les autres Républiques Américaines et les Etats-Unis et vice-versa pourrait même maintenant augmenter considérablement si des concessions mutuelles dans les tarifs étaient faites, ce qui diminuerait que très légèrement, et peut-être pas du tout, les revenus gouvernementaux des pays intéressés.

CONDITIONS DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES AU 1er SEPTEMBRE 1899.

Le rapport du Statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis donne au 1er septembre 1899 les chiffres suivants indignant la condition moyenne des principales récoltes:

Maïs, 85.2; blé, 70.9; avoine, 87.2; seigle, 82; coton, 68.5; blé sarrasin, 75.2; pomme de terre, 86.3.

Pendant le mois d'août, la condition du maïs accusait une diminution de 4.7 points, mais le 1er septembre la condition était encore 1.1 points de plus que le 1er septembre 1898 et 2.9 points de moins que les moyennes pendant les 10 années précédentes. La condition du blé d'hiver et de printemps, ensemble, était 70.9 au lieu de 86.7 à la même date en 1898 et 82.5 la moyenne de septembre pendant les 10 années précédentes. Le Ministère ne veut faire aucune estimation sous le rapport de la quantité de la récolte du blé jusqu'à la révision de l'arpentage dans les Etats du Nord-Ouest et ceux qui se trouvent sur le versant du Pacifique.

La condition moyenne de l'avoine était 87.2 au lieu de 79 au 1er septembre 1898 et 80 la moyenne des 10 années précédentes. La moyenne pour l'orge était le 1er septembre 1899 86.7; le 1er septembre 1898 elle était 79.2 et 84.1 la moyenne pendant les 10 années précédentes. La moyenne du seigle était 82 au lieu de 89.4 le 1er septembre 1898, et une moyenne pendant 10 années de 87.5. Quant au blé sarrasin, les moyennes des années 1898-1899 et celles de 10 années, se montaient respectivement à 75.2, 88.8 et 88. Pendant le mois d'août, il y a eu une légère détérioration dans la condition du coton qui résulte de la longue sécheresse qui a sévi dans la superficie ensemencée. Dans les places où il a plu, les pluies ont été si abondantes qu'elles ont aggravé encore davantage la situation. En conséquence, la moyenne le 1er septembre 1899 n'était seulement que 68.5 au lieu de 79.8 en 1898 et 78.4 les moyennes pendant 10 années. Il y a eu une diminution de 5 points dans la condition de la canne à sucre dans l'Etat de la Louisiane, avec des changements peu importants dans les autres sections.

La condition moyenne de la pomme de terre était 86.3 ou 9.3 points de plus que la moyenne du mois de septembre pendant 10 ans. Les autres produits ne montrent qu'une différence très insignifiante comparés avec ceux du mois d'août.

PROSPÉRITÉ DES ILES SANDWICH.

Depuis un an que les Etats-Unis ont pris en main les rênes du Gouvernement Hawaïen, leur administration a remporté un véritable succès; en effet, les recettes et les dépenses du Gouvernement, ainsi que les droits de Douane perçus pendant les six derniers mois de l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899, le démontrent.

Les statistiques sont parvenues au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et ont été transmises au Ministère des Finances le 25 août. Elles indiquent que les recettes du mois de juillet 1899 se montaient à $207,215, tandis que celles du même mois, en 1898, ne s'élevaient qu'à $184,798. Les dépenses pour le mois de juillet 1899 étaient de $172,381, tandis qu'en 1898 elles atteignaient, pour la même période, $234,909. Il y a donc, par conséquent, une diminution de dépenses et une augmentation de recettes. Les dépenses cependant se sont élevées à $212,272 par suite de prêt, tandis que celles du mois de juillet 1898 étaient de $261,278. Le total de la dette insulaire est maintenant $4,635,199, celui de l'année dernière était $4,449,617.

Mr. Richard Ives, Receveur-Général des Douanes des Iles, rapporte que les droits de Douane perçus dans tous les ports pendant le mois de juin dernier étaient: pour les importations des Etats-Unis, $1,412,658; pour les autres pays, $384,494; ce qui augmente presque de 100 pour cent les recettes du mois de juin 1896 quand les chiffres correspondants étaient respectivement $599,303 et $283,995. Les sommes encaissées pendant le premier semestre 1899 se sont montées à $8,330,294; celles perçues pendant les six premiers mois de 1898 se sont élevées à $4,714,143.

LES REVENUS DES PHILIPPINES.

Le Ministère de la Guerre des Etats-Unis a publié, le 26 août 1899, un compte-rendu des recettes des Philippines depuis la date de l'occupation de l'archipel par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis jusqu'au 31 juillet 1899. Ce rapport montre que le total général des recettes de toutes sortes se sont montées à $5,249,411, réparties comme suit: Manille, $3,848,248; Iloilo, $265,360; Cebu, $156,136.

URUGUAY.

DROITS DE DOUANE PERÇUS.

La Direction Générale des Douanes a publié ces jours-ci les résultats de ses opérations en juin dernier. Les entrées ont donné un total de $634,884, soit $20,878 de moins qu'en 1898.

Le premier semestre de 1899 n'en reste pas moins plus favorisé que celui de 1898, le total, pour les six mois de l'année courante, dépassant de $507,919 celui de 1898. Le chiffre de $5,823,432 atteint pendant les six premiers mois de 1899 est du reste supérieur aux totaux obtenus pendant égale période depuis 1894.

VÉNÉZUÉLA.

LOI SUR LES SOCIÉTÉS ÉTRANGÈRES AYANT DES AGENCES OU DES SUCCURSALES AU VÉNÉZUÉLA.

Le Congrès du Vénézuéla a voté une loi relative aux sociétés étrangères dont voici la teneur:

"ARTICLE I.—Les sociétés étrangères qui voudront établir des agences ou succursales au Vénézuéla, qu'elles aient ou non une exploitation quelconque dans le pays, si elles sont en nom collectif ou en commandite simple, devront observer toutes les formalités auxquelles sont soumises les sociétés nationales; si ce sont des sociétés par actions, elles devront faire inscrire au registre du commerce et au bureau de l'enregistrement du lieu où sera placée l'agence d'exploitation et publier dans un journal de la même localité, le contrat social, les divers documents s'y rapportant et démontrant que la société a été établie en conformité des lois de leur pays d'origine, et enfin une copie légalisée des articles de ces lois. Elles devront en outre déposer au bureau d'enregistrement, pour y être archivée, une copie de leurs statuts.

"NOTE I.—Les sociétés étrangères établies au Vénézuéla seront régies par les dispositions de l'article 26 du Code Civil et des articles 101, 102, 103 et 104 du code de procédure civile.

"NOTE II.—Toute modification apportée au contrat social, après la constitution d'une société, subira les formalités d'enregistrement et de publication, comme il est prévu dans la première partie de cet article.

"ARTICLE II.—Les compagnies d'assurances qui engageront des opérations au Vénézuéla devront établir au moins une agence responsable dans la capitale de la République; les compagnies d'assurances sur la vie devront donner une caution réelle, équivalente au total de la valeur des polices qu'elles obtiendraient dans le pays. Pour que cette garantie soit rendue effective, l'agence de chaque compagnie devra remettre tous les semestres, au Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Commerce et de l'Industrie, un relevé détaillé des assurances souscrites et du montant des polices. La caution donnera lieu aux formalités ordinaires d'enregistrement, au bureau subalterne du district dans lequel l'agence sera installée.

"ARTICLE III.—Toute infraction aux prescriptions des Articles I et II de la part d'une de ces compagnies sera personnellement et solidairement imputée aux administrateurs, agents, représentants ou toute autre personne ayant qualité pour traiter en leur nom; ces administrateurs, agents, représentants, etc., étant d'ailleurs responsables de toutes les obligations contractées dans le pays, par leurs compagnies respectives. Chaque infraction des termes de l'Article II donnera lieu à une amende variant de 1,000 à 10,000 bolivars, voire même à l'emprisonnement proportionnel.

"ARTICLE IV.—Les sociétés étrangères possédant actuellement des agences, succursales ou exploitations au Vénézuéla, devront se conformer aux prescriptions de l'Article I dans le terme de six mois après la publication de la présente loi. Les compagnies d'assurances devront dans le même délai se conformer aux termes de l'Article II.

MODIFICATIONS DOUANIÈRES.

Des modifications viennent d'être apportées au tarif des Douanes par le Congrès.

La "Revue Bi-mensuelle du Commerce Extérieur," du mois d'août 1899, donne le tableau du tarif des Douanes. La nouvelle législation maintient les neuf classes déjà existantes dans le tarif, mais elle augmente les droits de chacune d'elles.

La première classe, paiera 0.02 bolivar par kilog. brut; la 2e classe qui payait 0.10 paiera 0.12 par kilog. brut; la 3e classe qui payait 0.25 paiera 0.30 par kilog. brut; la 4e classe qui payait 0.75 paiera 0.90 par kilog. brut; la 5e classe qui payait 1.25 paiera 1.50 par kilog. brut; la 6e classe qui payait 2.50 paiera 3 par kilog. brut; la 7e classe qui payait 5 paiera 6 par kilog. brut; la 8e classe qui payait 10 paiera 12 par kilog. brut; la 9e classe qui payait 20 paiera 24 par kilog. brut.

Il faut ajouter à ces droits celui de 11½ pour cent. Des modifications ont été apportées à la classification de quelques produits. Par exemple, les eaux minérales qui autrefois n'étaient par taxées sont maintenant rangées dans la 2e classe et paieront 0.12 bolivar par kilog. brut.

Les vins en bouteilles, qui jadis étaient taxés comme les vins en barils dans la 3e classe, sont compris dans la 4e et paieront un droit de 0.90 bolivar par kilog. brut.

En vertu de la loi créant la dette nationale de 1899, les spiritueux sont de plus frappés d'une surtaxe de 0 bolivar 0.12 par kilog., et le Président de la République du Vénézuéla a le droit d'augmenter de 25 pourcent tous les droits de Douane, pour faire face aux dépenses budgétaires.

Cette loi est entrée en vigueur le 1er septembre 1899.

LE NOUVEAU MINISTRE DE NICARAGUA.

Le 11 septembre 1899, Señor Don LUIS F. COREA a été reçu officiellement par Son Excellence Mr. MCKINLEY, Président des Etats-Unis, en sa qualité d'Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la République de Nicaragua auprès du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis.

Señor COREA a représenté son pays à Washington comme Chargé d'Affaires, et la haute position à laquelle il vient d'être appelé par son Gouvernement n'est que la juste et digne récompense des bons et loyaux services qu'il a rendus à sa patrie.

Le nouveau Ministre est un des plus jeunes membres du Corps diplomatique à Washington, ayant à peine 35 ans. Pendant sa courte mais brillante carrière, il a rempli avec distinction plusieurs postes très importants, non seulement au Nicaragua, mais aussi au Guatémala, où il a vécu pendant plusieurs années. Señor COREA a fait son droit à l'Université de Guatémala et est considéré aujourd'hui comme un des avocats les plus distingués de l'Amérique Centrale.

Señor COREA a été aussi nommé Représentant diplomatique de son pays auprès du Gouvernement Chilien et a l'intention de se rendre sous peu à Santiago, capitale de cette République, pour présenter ses lettres de créance.

Les discours suivants ont été échangés pendant la cérémonie:

DISCOURS DE SEÑOR COREA.

"MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT: C'est une vive satisfaction et un grand honneur pour moi de pouvoir remettre entre les mains de Votre Excellence la lettre qui m'accrédite comme Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Nicaragua auprès du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

"Mon Gouvernement, en élevant son Représentant à Washington au plus haut rang qui existe dans le service diplomatique de la République de Nicaragua, a désiré donner une preuve des sentiments fraternels qu'il ressent pour ce pays et en même temps de son désir de maintenir

et de resserrer, si c'est possible, les liens d'amitié qui, depuis longtemps, ont uni les deux Républiques.

"Je suis certain que le Gouvernement de Votre Excellence est animé des mêmes sentiments et qu'il voudra bien faciliter la mission dont je suis chargé, contribuant ainsi à la prospérité des deux pays, principalement au jour qui, j'ose l'espérer, n'est pas loin, où, unis dans un commun accord, de nouvelles voies s'ouvriront au commerce, la base fondamentale de la prospérité des nations.

"Pour atteindre ce but important et pour continuer à mériter l'estime que le Gouvernement de Votre Excellence a daigné m'accorder, quand j'étais Chargé d'Affaires, je consacrerai tous mes efforts.

"Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, avant de terminer, d'offrir à Votre Excellence les vœux bien sincères que le Gouvernement et le peuple du Nicaragua font pour la prospérité des Etats-Unis et le bonheur de Votre Excellence, vœux que moi aussi je forme avec l'enthousiasme que m'inspirent les institutions libérales de ce grand peuple et la sage administration de son Gouvernement."

RÉPONSE DE SON EXCELLENCE LE PRÉSIDENT M'KINLEY.

"MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: Je suis heureux de recevoir de vos mains la lettre par laquelle Mr. le Président de Nicaragua vous accrédite comme Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de cette République auprès du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis.

"Les relations étroites qui existent entre le Gouvernement et le peuple des Etats-Unis et leurs voisins de l'hémisphère occidentale, ainsi que le désir que nous avons toujours eu d'établir entre nous et eux une confiance mutuelle et d'améliorer les relations commerciales, ont conduit les Etats-Unis à maintenir des missions plénipotentiaires dans les capitales des pays de l'Amérique Latine et à accueillir avec plaisir celles qui nous sont envoyées de ces Républiques.

"En vous recevant dans votre haute et nouvelle position, laissez-moi vous assurer, Monsieur le Ministre, que je suis heureux que cette distinction remarquable dont vous avez été l'objet vous ait été décernée; votre long séjour dans ce pays et les bonnes relations que vous avez toujours maintenues avec ce Gouvernement vous ayant fait connaître les intérêts mutuels des deux nations et gagner l'estime et l'amitié des fonctionnaires de ce Gouvernement et de mes compatriotes.

"C'est pourquoi j'accepte avec la plus grande satisfaction l'assurance que vous me donnez de consacrer tous vos efforts pour coopérer à la réalisation de ce haut but d'amitié et de bonne volonté qui animent les Etats-Unis et la République de Nicaragua.

"En vous souhaitant, Monsieur le Ministre, tout le succès que vous pouvez espérer, je vous prie de transmettre à votre Président et au peuple du Nicaragua mes meilleurs vœux et ceux de mes compatriotes pour le bonheur, la prospérité et la paix de votre pays."

EXPOSITION DES MARCHANDISES D'EXPORTATION A PHILADELPHIE.

Le 14 septembre 1899, à midi, a eu lieu à Philadelphie l'ouverture officielle de l'Exposition Nationale des Exportations. Une affluence considérable de visiteurs venant de toutes les parties du pays, comprenant des membres du Corps Diplomatique, des officiers de l'Armée et de la Marine, des savants, des hommes d'affaires, etc., ont assisté à cette cérémonie.

Le Directeur Général, M. W. P. WILSON, a prononcé le discours suivant:

"Le but de cette Exposition, a-t-il dit, est de montrer au consommateur étranger ce que peuvent faire les manufacturiers américains et comme ils sont capables de tout fabriquer bien et à bon marché. Les Gouvernements du monde entier ont accepté l'invitation qui leur a été adressée et se sont fait représenter par leurs délégués; les principales chambres de commerce de chaque pays du globe, associations organisées auxquelles sont confiées les affaires commerciales de leurs états respectifs, se sont aussi rendues à l'invitation, et 20,000 des principaux commerçants ont été priés de profiter de l'occasion pour voir, réunis à Philadelphie, les principaux produits américains et ont promis d'être présents dans cette ville pendant la durée de l'Exposition."

M. le Gouverneur STONE a alors pris la parole, et dans une courte allocution a souhaité la bienvenue aux visiteurs, acceptant l'Exposition qu'il a ensuite passée au Maire. M. ASHBRIDGE, Maire, a accepté l'Exposition au nom de la ville, et M. le Député W. P. HEPBURN, de l'Etat de Iowa, Président du Comité du Commerce Intérieur et Extérieur à la Chambre des Représentants, a prononcé le discours d'ouverture.

Les discours terminés, M. le Président MCKINLEY fut informé par télégraphe que l'Exposition n'attendait plus que son consentement pour ouvrir ses portes. Le Président MCKINLEY a immédiatement envoyé le message suivant:

"L'ouverture de l'Exposition Nationale des Exportations est une nouvelle preuve éclatante et des plus satisfaisantes de l'extension de notre commerce et rendra nos relations commerciales avec les autres nations beaucoup plus cordiales. Acceptez pour vous même et vos associés mes plus sincères félicitations et mes meilleurs veux pour la complète réalisation de vos vives espérances de succès et l'influence de cette entreprise."

Ce message fut lu par M. le Vice-Président FOULKROD, qui annonça ensuite que M. le Président MCKINLEY, qui attendait en ce moment à la Maison Blanche à Washington, allait toucher le bouton de l'appareil télégraphique communiquant avec celui sur l'estrade, notifiant ainsi sa participation à la cérémonie. Cela fut fait et, au milieu d'un silenc

momentané, le tic-tac de l'appareil fut entendu à une distance considérable de l'estrade.

Les portes de l'Exposition furent alors ouvertes au public, et 25,000 personnes la visitèrent pendant le courant du jour.

COMMERCE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE AVEC TOUTE L'AMÉRIQUE.

Le rapport du mois de juillet 1899, relatif au commerce et à la navigation du Royaume-Uni, donne les statistiques du commerce de la Grande Bretagne avec les Républiques Américaines, ainsi que celles de son commerce avec ses possessions sur le continent occidental et les îles adjacentes, pour le premier semestre de l'année 1899. Dans le tableau qui comprend ces "comptes," les marchandises importées sont généralement classées comme reçues des paysoù elles ont été embarquées directement pour le Royaume-Uni. Dans la majorité des cas, le pays d'embarquement est aussi le pays d'origine, mais dans les pays qui n'ont pas de port, la Bolivie, par exemple, ceci n'a pas paru praticable. Les exportations sont, selon la règle, créditées aux pays de la dernière destination (de nouveau la Bolivie est une exception) conformément aux déclarations des exportateurs. Les divisions indiquées dans le tableau ci-dessous, concernant les côtes orientales et occidentales de ces divers pays, sont faites d'après les rapports des statisticiens anglais. Dans un but de comparaison, les totaux pour le premier semestre de 1898 sont aussi donnés.

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTATIONS.		
États-Unis:		
Côte de l'Atlantique	£61, 995, 214	£65, 467, 818
Côte du Pacifique	2, 076, 343	3, 261, 296
Total	64, 071, 557	68, 729, 114
Cuba et Porto Rico	15, 188	17, 192
Canada:		
Côte de l'Atlantique	4, 783, 968	4, 478, 780
Côte du Pacifique	368, 071	612, 891
Terre-Neuve et Labrador	100, 515	70, 986
Les Iles Bermudes	866	766
Antilles:		
Anglaises	1, 039, 496	904, 088
Françaises	216	63
Hollandaises	11, 003	13, 974
Danoises	93	8, 836
Haïti et Saint-Domingue	36, 698	53, 444
Mexique	227, 801	147, 755
Guatemala	133, 920	270, 692
Honduras	900	4, 965
Honduras Britannique (Belize)	82, 360	95, 911
Salvador	70, 711	184, 397
Nicaragua	23, 686	58, 315
Costa-Rica	254, 273	543, 163
Colombie	457, 373	388, 801
Venezuela	22, 809	19, 648
Guyane:		
Anglaise	193, 452	303, 257
Hollandaise	24, 414	19, 251
Equateur	58, 561	100, 579

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTATIONS—continued.		
Pérou	£640,990	£733,170
Chili (comprenant la côte du Pacifique de la Patagonie)	2,244,215	1,990,060
Brésil	2,157,548	2,362,705
Uruguay	155,038	165,427
République Argentine (comprenent la côte Atlantique de la Patagonie)	5,365,232	4,854,019
Iles Falkland ou Malouines	101,281	109,670
Total de toute l'Amérique	82,642,235	87,241,919
EXPORTATIONS.		
Etats-Unis:		
Côte de l'Atlantique	7,787,687	7,236,041
Côte du Pacifique	225,752	202,914
Cuba et Porto Rico	463,526	119,423
Canada:		
Côte de l'Atlantique	2,925,889	2,591,935
Côte du Pacifique	154,285	162,179
Terre-Neuve et Labrador	164,637	137,219
Iles Bermudes	45,476	48,898
Antilles:		
Anglaises	875,833	903,775
Françaises	49,182	36,948
Hollandaises	15,009	13,167
Danoises	16,487	25,312
Haïti et Saint-Domingue	130,267	74,921
Mexique	934,983	822,060
Guatemala	21,434	10,855
Honduras	76,482	41,737
Honduras Britannique (Belize)	22,966	20,694
Salvador	76,482	41,737
Nicaragua	58,832	38,183
Costa-Rica	47,586	54,195
Colombie	361,518	374,301
Venezuela	360,619	186,040
Guyane:		
Anglaise	261,237	284,142
Française	1,202	936
Hollandaise	18,423	21,110
Equateur	176,111	159,236
Pérou	409,161	384,078
Chili (comprenant la côte de la Patagonie)	844,895	821,780
Brésil	2,523,457	2,774,085
Uruguay	618,258	542,187
Paraguay	4,749	4,522
République Argentine (comprenant la côte est de la Patagonie)	2,849,701	2,435,871
Iles Falkland ou Malouines	12,231	9,549
Total de toute l'Amérique	2,534,357	20,589,030

LA GLACE ARTIFICIELLE.

Cette industrie a pris aux Etats-Unis un développement considérable et déjà la glace artificielle a rivalisé avec la glace naturelle, voire même dans les grandes villes du Nord. Il n'y a aucun doute que la première est plus pure que la dernière parce que l'eau employée pour la faire peut être purifiée au moyen de machines spéciales. Un des plus grands avantages que la glace manufacturée a sur la glace naturelle est qu'elle peut être fabriquée dans la place où elle est consommée; de cette façon on évite les frais de transport ainsi que les autres pertes résultant de la transportation, car il est impossible d'empêcher la glace de fondre plus ou moins quand elle est expédiée d'un point à un autre, et on a calculé que le déchet dans ce cas est de 20 à 50 pour cent.

Les machines pour fabriquer la glace ont atteint, aux Etats-Unis, la plus grande perfection et sont faites de toutes les dimensions; depuis celles qui fabriquent une tonne par jour jusqu'à celles capables de

fournir des centaines de tonnes; elles se vendent de tous les prix, depuis $500 jusqu'à plusieurs milliers de dollars.

Un fait que bien des personnes ignorent est que la glace artificielle dure plus longtemps que la naturelle, à cause de sa densité, du manque d'air et de la basse température nécessaire à sa fabrication. Dans toutes les places où elle a été introduite, la glace artificielle a supplanté la naturelle, et il est constaté que dans de nombreuses grandes villes américaines, les marchands qui, antérieurement, faisaient le commerce de la glace naturelle, ont acheté des machines pour la fabriquer et ont obtenu d'excellents résultats. La fabrication de la glace est une industrie très lucrative qui fait tous les jours de rapides progrès. Pas une seule faillite n'a été constatée, et on peut citer de nombreux cas où l'entreprise, commencée sur une toute petite échelle, a atteint, en peu d'années, des proportions considérables.

Si la glace est une chose de première nécessité partout, elle est absolument indispensable dans les pays tropicaux. L'importation de la glace qui exige toujours une grande dépense et beaucoup de travail est maintenant inutile, depuis qu'avec les bonnes machines comme celles qui sont construites aux Etats-Unis on peut en faire une assez grande quantité pour satisfaire à toutes les demandes. Les machines américaines pour la fabrication de la glace sont déjà employées dans plusieurs pays latins de l'Amérique et le résultat obtenu semble justifier les espérances des personnes qui ont placé leur capitaux dans des entreprises de ce genre. En conséquence, on croit qu'après quelque temps le commerce de la glace naturelle, qui était jadis fait sur une vaste échelle avec les pays des régions tropicales, cessera entièrement et sera remplacé par l'introduction de machines pour la manufacture d'un article si absolumeut essentiel.

Comme exemple de ce qui a été dit plus haut, la République du Nicaragua peut être citée; la fabrication de la glace artificielle qui, il y a quelques années, était complètement inconnue dans cette République, a pris une grande extension, et les principales villes de ce pays fournissent ajourd'hui de la glace excellente fabriquée avec les machines américaines.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Pendant le mois de juillet dernier, le bureau de l'Adjudant-Général du Ministère de la Guerre (Etats-Unis) a fait paraître un ouvrage plein d'intérêt et qui donne des renseignements très précis sur la géographie et les conditions climatériques du territoire d'Alaska qui, jusqu'à ces quelques dernières années, était presque inconnu. Ce livre, comme son titre de "Reports of Explorations in the Territory of Alaska (Cooks Inlet, Sushitna, Copper and Tanana Rivers), 1898," l'indique, contient un récit des explorations qui ont été tentées dans le territoire d'Alaska

sous la haute direction du Ministre de la Guerre, par Messieurs EDWIN F. GLENN, capitaine au 25e régiment d'infanterie, et ABERCOMBIE, capitaine au 2e régiment de ligne.

Messieurs H. C. LEARNARD, lieutenant au 14e régiment d'infanterie; CASTNER, lieutenant au 4e régiment d'infanterie; P. G. LOWE, lieutenant au 18e régiment d'infanterie; R. M. BROOKFIELD, lieutenant au 2e régiment d'infanterie; GUY H. PRESTON, lieutenant au 9e régiment de cavalerie; WILLIAM YANEST, maréchal des logis; FREDERICK H. MATHYS, sergent au 14e régiment d'infanterie; ROBERT HEIDEN et ROBERT A. KOEHLER, caporaux au même régiment; CHARLES BROWN, officier d'administration; JOHN W. CLEAVE, économe de l'hôpital; Messieurs JOH. S. BAGG, J. J. RAFFERTY et LUTHER S. KELLY, guides; ont ajouté des rapports supplémentaires à ceux des principaux officiers. Tous ces comptes-rendus donnent de nombreux détails très intéressants sur les différentes parties du pays et sur l'expédition. Un tableau des observations météorologiques qui ont été faites à Port-Valdez, du 19 avril 1898 au 18 janvier 1899, est encadré dans cet ouvrage et une carte détachée, très complète, sur une échelle de 1 pouce à 12½ milles, est jointe au volume.

"The Scientific Publishing Company of New York and London" vient de faire paraître un nouveau volume, le septième de la série, intitulé: "L'industrie minière, ses statistiques; Technologie et Commerce aux Etats-Unis et dans les autres pays, au 31 décembre 1898" ("The Mineral Industry, its Statistics; Technology and Trade in the United States and other Countries to the end of 1898"). Cette nouvelle édition, publiée sous la direction de Mr. R. P. BOTHWELL, est illustrée et contient 940 pages; le premier volume, édité en 1893, renferme les statistiques pour l'année 1892 et celles des années précédentes; il donne aussi un résumé de cette industrie dès son commencement. Le Volume VII traite de l'histoire de la minéralogie jusqu'à la fin de 1898, non seulement au point de vue des statistiques, mais encore à celui des progrès techniques et des conditions commerciales de cette industrie.

L'Honorable HORACE D. WASDEN, Chef du Bureau des Statistiques du Travail de l'Etat de Massachusetts, a compilé avec le plus grand soin, pour les "Statistiques des Manufactures de 1898," un monographe sur l'industrie textile. Après avoir fait l'historique des établissements industriels de cet Etat, depuis l'année 1643 jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1898, et aussi l'exposé des récoltes du coton du pays depuis 1791 jusqu'à 1898, ce statisticien donne la quantité de coton exporté et consommé pendant chaque année de cette période. Cette chronologie industrielle est aussi un travail d'une très grande valeur, et le compilateur, depuis le commencement de l'ouvrage jusqu'à la fin, a fait preuve de patience et d'une grande habileté.

Mr. L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER, de Port-au-Prince, a envoyé au "Petermann's Mitteilungen, No. 7, 1899," une description du voyage qu'il a entrepris en 1896 à travers une partie de la République de Haïti, entre Gonaïves et Borgne, comme membre d'une commission scientifique organisée dans le but de découvrir des gisements de cinabre. Quoique l'objet principal de cette mission n'ait pas donné les résultats auxquels on s'attendait, la commission a obtenu de nombreux et nouveaux renseignements par rapport à la topographie et la géologie de Haïti. L'existence de certains minéraux a été établie et une carte topographique du pays, jadis presque inconnu, a été préparée.

Un magasin littéraire mensuel qui ne traite que des questions qui ont rapport à l'art photographique et dont le titre est "El Fotógrafo Mexicano" (La photographie mexicaine) renferme quelques pages très intéressantes sur la photographie; cet ouvrage périodique est publié dans la ville de Mexico.

Le "Bankers' Monthly" du mois d'août 1899 contient un article sur "L'usage de la monnaie d'or" ("Use of gold coin"), signé par l'Honorable ELLIS H. ROBERTS, Trésorier des Etats-Unis, et aussi un article sur le "Banquier dans l'Ouest," par Mr. C. W. STEVENSON et autres.

Mr. le Dr. G. KRÜGER a fait paraître le 4 mai 1899, dans le "Deutschen Nachrichten," Valparaiso, un rapport complet sur les découvertes qu'il a faites dans les pays qui bordent la rivière Yelchs.

Les naturalistes allemands, établis dans la République du Chili, ont déployé la plus grande activité, pendant les chaleurs tropicales de 1898–1899, dans leurs découvertes en Patagonie.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. OCTOBER, 1899. No. 4.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Minister of the United States to the Argentine Republic, arrived at New York from Buenos Ayres on September 3, 1899, after a somewhat eventful voyage. When asked what the business outlook was in that country, he said, as reported by the "Export Implement Age:"

"I think it more than reasonably encouraging. The past year was an exceptionally satisfactory one for the importers of agricultural machinery, owing to the fact that there had been for several years previous a general slackness in all trade there, consequent upon the heavy losses which had been sustained by the farmers from the ravages of locusts, as well as from drought in other sections. During that period importers succeeded in largely reducing their outstanding accounts, so that when the last year's good wheat and corn crops were secure their customers were able and anxious to buy the machinery needed by them.

"The country, moreover, exported about 1,200,000 tons of wheat from the harvest now being shipped, and 400,000 tons of corn, more or less. In addition to that, the wool clip has been very heavy, and the export of cattle and sheep is constantly increasing, as well as improving in character. The improvement is due largely to the rapid extension in the acreage of alfalfa, which grows finely over a very great area of grazing lands and produces good and very cheap beef and mutton. The wheat area is gradually increasing, but almost wholly toward the southern section of the country, where there is greater security from the locust pest than in the northern sections."

FOREIGN COMMERCE, JANUARY-JUNE, 1899.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for September contained an article on the exports of the Republic for the first half of 1899, taken from the "Review of the River Plate;" since then the figures given out by the National Statistical Department at Buenos Ayres have been obtained. From these a comparison is made with the official figures for the first six months of 1898, which shows that the increase in the volume of foreign trade was $15,317,504 gold. For 1898, the imports amounted to $49,553,375 and the exports to $81,632,825, or a total trade of $131,186,200. In 1899 the totals were, respectively, $57,452,942, $89,050,762, and $146,503,704. The increase in the value of imports was $7,899,567 and in the value of exports $7,417,937. The increase in the volume of trade for the first half of 1898 over the same period of 1897 was $17,443,886.

The exports were classified under the following headings:

Products.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Pastoral	$52,590,876	$48,942,449	$3,648,427
Agricultural	34,629,263	31,043,896	3,585,367
Forest	1,145,974	1,019,359	126,615
Mineral	115,312	103,893	11,419
Game	165,619	108,715	56,904
Miscellaneous	403,718	414,513	[1] 10,795
Total	89,050,762	81,632,825	7,417,937

[1] Loss.

The increases in imports were chiefly in textiles, minerals, lumber, coal, and miscellaneous products. The classification of the articles imported was as follows:

Articles.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
Textiles	$20,175,949	$14,681,764	$5,494,185
Iron, and manufactures of	8,286,425	8,239,055	47,370
Vegetable substances	6,309,113	6,370,263	[1] 61,150
Coal, glass, stone, and crockery	5,661,682	4,266,529	1,395,153
Lumber, all kinds	3,522,960	3,066,241	456,719
Beverages	3,410,022	4,129,104	[1] 719,082
Chemicals and dyestuffs	1,986,084	2,007,215	[1] 21,131
Mineral and other oils	1,812,173	1,332,838	479,335
Metals, other than iron	1,644,798	1,662,137	[1] 17,339
Paper, and manufactures of	1,472,016	1,426,158	45,858
Animal substances	1,001,309	1,062,133	[1] 60,824
Leather, and manufactures of	580,744	439,550	141,194
Miscellaneous products	1,589,667	870,388	719,279
Total	57,452,942	49,553,375	7,899,567

[1] Loss.

With regard to the business transacted with foreign countries, the following tables give the totals together with the increase or decrease in exports and imports:

EXPORTS.

Destination.	1899.	1898.	Gain.
United States	$3,201,170	$2,818,987	$382,183
Great Britain	10,923,002	11,284,252	[1] 361,250
Germany	14,658,348	13,159,974	1,498,374
France	18,281,346	15,859,150	2,322,196
Italy	2,094,857	2,884,947	[1] 790,090
Belgium	11,783,129	9,719,564	2,063,565
Brazil	3,261,816	3,057,577	204,239
Uruguay	2,225,366	2,244,374	[1] 19,008
Holland	853,301	296,934	556,367
Spain	766,014	142,684	623,330
Bolivia	279,706	351,195	[1] 71,487
Chile	205,754	1,095,498	[1] 889,744
Paraguay	104,196	80,279	23,917
West Indies	80,202	95,139	[1] 14,937
Portugal	72,184	11,897	60,587
Other countries	4,096,081	3,969,008	127,073
To ports of call	16,164,290	14,561,666	1,602,624
Total	89,050,762	81,632,825	7,317,937

IMPORTS.

United States	$6,582,249	$4,431,998	$2,150,251
Great Britain	21,294,496	17,800,137	3,494,359
Germany	7,008,125	5,703,359	1,304,766
France	5,425,416	4,949,982	475,434
Italy	7,265,492	6,424,922	840,570
Belgium	4,909,365	4,700,491	208,874
Brazil	2,221,300	2,493,410	[1] 272,110
Uruguay	256,745	257,961	[1] 1,216
Holland	64,565	50,454	14,111
Spain	1,459,073	1,719,396	[1] 260,323
Bolivia	29,033	26,325	2,708
Chile	65,150	33,873	31,277
Paraguay	702,810	875,247	[1] 172,437
West Indies	17,282	15,515	1,767
Portugal	59,355	29,305	30,050
Other countries	92,486	41,000	51,486
Total	57,452,942	49,553,375	7,899,567

[1] Loss.

COMMERCIAL STATISTICS FOR 1898.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Argentine Republic has published the trade statistics of that country for 1898. The figures show that, exclusive of gold and silver in bars and in plate, the imports exceed the exports by £1,145,220. The total imports amounted to £21,485,780, and the total exports to £26,765,890. The following table shows the percentage of exports and imports of the Argentine Republic to and from the countries named:

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*
Great Britain	36.3	14.4
Italy	12.8	3.9
Germany	11.7	15.2
United States	10.4	4.4
France	9.9	22.4
Belgium	8.8	10.4
Brazil	4.7	5.9
Spain	3.1	.3
Paraguay	1.6	.1
Uruguay	.4	2.8
Chile	.1	1
Other countries	.3	19.2
Total	100	100

AUSTRALIA AND THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC COMPARED.

Mr. SEEBER, of Buenos Ayres, has compiled the following comparative data relating to Australia and the Argentine Republic, the figures referring to the year 1897:

	Australia.	Argentine Republic.
Area ..... kilometers..	8,000,000	2,900,000
Population	4,000,000	4,500,000
School attendance	600,000	300,000
Mail service:		
Letters	239,000,000	200,000,000
Packages	124,000,000	
Railroads ..... kilometers..	22,000	15,000
Telegraph lines ..... do....	79,000	40,000
Length of wires	168,000	95,000
Telegrams	8,200,000	5,000,000
Public debt ..... dollars..	1,100,000,000	445,000,000
Provincial debt ..... do....	.....	137,000,000
Revenues (excluding railroads) ..... do....	100,000,000	46,000,000
Paper money ..... do....	.....	300,000,000
Exports ..... do....	200,000,000	101,000,000
Wool ..... do....	132,000,000	37,500,000
Stock on hand, beef and live animals ..... do....	25,000,000	12,600,000
Tallow ..... do....	6,100,000	2,650,000
Butter ..... do....	6,000,000	150,000
Sugar ..... do....	5,900,000	4,300,000
Hides and skins ..... do....	12,700,000	20,000,000
Cereals ..... do....	.....	28,000,000
Minerals ..... number..	69,300,000	350,000
Sheep ..... do....	100,009,000	80,000,000
Horned cattle ..... do....	12,000,000	22,000,000
Interest on mortgages ..... per cent..	5	9

COLONIES IN CORDOBA PROVINCE.

The statistical officials of Cordoba have recently published some information of interest regarding the colonies in that Province. According to this publication, the Department of San Justo is generally flat, with slight undulations, the only stream being the large creek Garabota; there are, however, a number of small lakes. The Central Cordoba Railroad passes through the center of the Department, the section of the country to the north being most desirable for colonists. The depth of the soil is from 5 to 18 inches, and water is to be found at from 5 to 55 feet under the surface, the latter depth being for the higher regions of the north. Colonization is retarded in the southern section by the lack of transportation facilities. The same is true of the rich region extending to the northwest from the San José, Santa Barbara, and Nueva Undine colonies. The only crops of importance in the San Justo region are wheat and flax, the latter cultivated for the seed only. Indian corn grows to perfection, but the cost of marketing the crop prevents its cultivation to any extent more than for local consumption. Barley also grows well, but there is no demand for it. Small plantations of fruit and shade trees are becoming quite numerous.

In this department there are four colonies, namely: Santa Maria, Eugenia, Galeno, and General Deheza. All are located on good lands and semiartesian wells have done much to favor cattle raising as well as agricultural interests generally. The price of land varies greatly, the

lowest quotations being $15 per hectare (2.471 acres) on three or four years' time with interest at 12 per cent, to $50 per hectare on the same terms of payment. The rents also vary, but generally the renter has to deliver 12 per cent of the crops to the landlord each year.

In some of the southern colonies wheat is about the only crop raised, flax has been abandoned, and maize is grown only for home consumption. In others alfalfa is driving out wheat and they will become cattle-raising colonies, not because good crops can not be raised, but because they do not pay. In this section the price of land is from $20 to $23 per hectare, three to four years for payment without interest.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS IN BUENOS AYRES.

The municipal authorities of Buenos Ayres have decided to repeal the ordinance which required the free lighting of streets traversed by trolley lines, which is said to mean the practical wiping out of the horse tramway by the substitution of electrical means of locomotion. There are now ten horse car companies in the city. The first electric line was introduced three years ago, and although merely experimental, was a success from the start. To-day there are two electric railway companies in the city operating 40 miles of track, and constructing more as fast as material can come from the United States, for only American equipment is used. These two companies are controlled by English capital. Each of the two principal horse roads, also owned by English capital, carries about 30,000,000 passengers yearly. Since the repeal of the objectionable law one of these companies contemplates the adoption of electrical power, and conservative opinions estimate that at least $10,000,000 will find their way into United States pockets owing to the proposed immediate conversion of the principal horse lines into electric lines. This sum is exclusive of that necessary for the erection of power plants for the supply of electric light.

The following table shows the movement of the ten companies during July last:

	Horse.	Electric.
Kilometers of line	362	63
Cars in service	816	79
Employees	4,655	604
Horses	10,897	
Round trips	269,809	39,863
Passengers carried	8,246,458	1,310,933
Kilometers	2,877,084	464,676

During the months from March to July, inclusive, the number of passengers carried by the horse cars was 42,511,913 and by the electric cars 5,585,232.

The "Review of the River Plate" for August 19, 1899, says that the department of public works of the municipality of Buenos Ayres has drawn up the specifications calling for tenders for the construction and working of a network of electric tramways connecting the suburbs of

Villa Devoto, Catalinas, Crespo, and others. The system is divided into three sections, and the charge for passengers is fixed at 10 cents per section, or 25 cents for the three. Those who present tenders (unfortunately the time limit for these tenders is not named) will be required to deposit the sum of $20,000 as a guarantee for the carrying on of the work.

COMPETITION IN THE MAIZE MARKET.

A late number of the "Cleveland (Ohio) Leader" contains an article regarding the competition in corn between the United States and the Argentine Republic, which states that the competition of the Argentine Republic with the United States in the wheat markets of Europe has long been recognized as an important factor of the grain trade, but that it begins to look as if the rivalry between the two countries would be even more interesting and serious in Indian corn, a trade in which the farmers of the United States have long had almost a monopoly. It says that in each of the last two weeks (of September) the Argentine Republic has shipped much more than a million bushels of corn to Europe. That rate, continued for a year, the "Leader" adds, would reach an aggregate equal to the total for the United States a very short time ago, and the export trade of the big South American countries is fast increasing. The article ends by stating that "Ultimately we may have to depend almost wholly on the home demand for all our grains. The exporting of such food staples, in the natural state, is the proper work of newer and less-developed lands than the United States."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

From October 1, 1898, to August 15, 1899, 457,894 bales of wool were shipped from the Argentine Republic, against 478,963 bales during the corresponding period of the previous year. The shipments of wool to the United States during the two periods under comparison were 9,499 and 12,663 bales, respectively. The total exports of wool in 1898 amounted to 514,773 bales, and in 1897 to 469,451 bales.

The statistics of exports of live stock from the Argentine Republic during the first half year of 1899 show that 76,586 head of cattle, 361,405 sheep, 327 horses, 7 asses, 455 swine, and 701 mules have been shipped abroad, principally to England and France. The exports for the same period of 1898 were 400,461 cattle, 2,725 horses, and 1,752 mules, which shows a difference of 34,543 head of live stock in favor of the year 1899.

The question has been agitated of deepening the channel of the port of Santa Fé and of carrying into effect other improvements heretofore considered. As the Minister of Public Works has formally promised to have the plans prepared before the end of the present year in order that bids may be offered early in 1900, this information may interest United States firms who desire to undertake the work.

A patent was issued by the United States Patent Office to AXEL H. T. HANSEN, of Buenos Ayres, on September 19 last, for a chainless bicycle.

BOLIVIA.

DEPOSITS OF COPPER.

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, gives the following statement with regard to copper in Bolivia:

"The copper ores of Bolivia extend almost uninterruptedly from the south to the north of the country, in a direction parallel to the Cordillera, but up to the present time the only deposits being worked are those of Corocoro, situated on the plateau of Titicaca. The distinctive feature of these deposits is the abundance of native copper, in forms which vary from microscopic veins to great masses weighing several tons. With regard to their richness they are only excelled by those of Lake Superior in the United States. Only the most imperfect and primitive methods are employed in the working of the mines. The scarcity of fuel does not permit of the fusion of the several combinations of the metal on a large scale. In the whole of Corocoro there are not more than two furnaces. Women crush the ore with hand hammers, and afterwards the men pass it through hand or hydraulic mills; it then is washed twice and dried in the sun or by artificial heat. The ore yields 70 per cent of copper. In 1897 the four companies at Corocoro extracted 2,912,566 kilograms of copper."

CUSTOMS DUES.

By the terms of a decree of the Government of Bolivia, promulgated the 2d of June, 1899, the surtax of 20 per cent on all import duties payable at Bolivian custom-houses is raised to 40 per cent after that date.

The export duty on tin is raised to 1 boliviano for tin ore, 1.60 bolivianos for tin in bars, and 3 bolivianos for bismuth; 64 kilograms being the unit of computation.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the statement of the "Chilean Times," the Bolivian mineral products exported from Antofagasta during the year 1898 were valued at $29,994,914. The principal items were: Silver ore, $17,252,792; silver in bars, $4,357,282; silver sulphurets, $2,620,410; tin in bars or pigs, $1,767,714.

The Orton Rubber Company, Limited, formed for the exploitation of the rubber forests in the interior of Bolivia and the marketing of the product in London, has absorbed the extensive possessions and flourishing business of the late Dr. ANTONIO VACA DIEZ in the Beni district of the Republic. The new company is composed of English capitalists principally, and the main office is located in London.

BRAZIL.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

On June 3, 1899, Mr. José Carlos de Carvalho, "Captain of War and Navy," published in the "Jornal do Commercio" a very interesting paper on the recent noticeable diminution of imports of the various articles of prime necessity and of ordinary food. It is the purpose of Mr. Carvalho to demonstrate that this falling-off is the result of an appreciable development in the national production of these articles. It is a fact that of late years the production of different supplies such as rice, lard, dried beef, corn, pork, and candles, which were formerly purchased abroad, has made great strides.

Mr. Carvalho also gives a comparative table showing the imports into Rio de Janeiro of the articles mentioned from 1894 to 1898. According to this table the imports of pork, which in 1894 amounted to 11,150,820 kilos, fell in 1896 to 6,302,040 kilos and in 1898 to 2,456,016 kilos, or, for the five years cited, a loss in foreign supplies of nearly 78 per cent. Lard fell from 4,928,868 kilos in 1894 to 2,906,190 kilos in 1898. Bran, formerly coming exclusively from Buenos Ayres, is now a native product, and the shipments from the Plate region decreased from 158,669 sacks in 1894 to 62,374 sacks in 1896, with a further reduction to 8,335 sacks in 1898. The imports of flour also diminished over 50 per cent, being 603,329 barrels in 1894, 375,935 barrels in 1896, and 273,137 barrels in 1898. The imports of alfalfa in 1894 amounted to 20,257,564 kilos, while in 1898 there were but 13,939,303 kilos, this falling off being due to the extended culture of alfalfa in the States of Minas and of southern Brazil. Corn fell from 859,833 sacks in 1894 and 1,496,556 sacks in 1896 to 422,286 sacks in 1898, this loss of more than 50 per cent being due to the production of this food stuff in the States of Minas, São Paulo, and Rio Grande. Rice, imported from British India demonstrates the same conditions, for in 1894 1,914,015 sacks were imported, the quantity falling in 1896 to 1,240,833 and in 1898 to 1,130,324.

In the matter of dried beef the imports do not indicate such a remarkable diminution, the quantity imported in 1898 being 42,666,780 kilos, against 55,762,710 kilos in 1896 and 47,165,434 kilos in 1894. Imports of butter have fallen off more than 50 per cent on account of the importance attained by the butter industry in the States of Minas, Santa Catharina, Rio Grande, and Rio de Janeiro. The quantities of butter imported in the years 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898 were, respectively, 69,551, 63,182, 57,738, 51,243, and 44,478 kilos.

Among the articles enumerated by Mr. Carvalho showing decided decrease in import value are candles, of which France furnished 50 per cent of the general foreign supply. In 1894 the imports of this article to the Rio de Janeiro market amounted to 14,551 boxes; in 1896

they were 10,176 boxes, and in 1898 they fell to 5,898 boxes. This diminution is the result of competition with local industry. Alimentary pastes constitute another example of this universal decline. In 1894 they figured for 33,972 kilos and in 1898 were reduced to the insignificant amount of 1,101 kilos. This decrease is due to the establishment of numerous manufactories in the country, directed principally by Italians. All the matches used are manufactured in the country and are provided generally by the factories of Rio São Paulo and Curityba. Imports of gin have also decreased from 26,191 cases in 1894 to 11,286 in 1898. Kerosene from the United States shows a slight diminution, due to the increase in local production, the imports in 1894 being 485,933 cases and 430,286 cases in 1898.

COLLECTION OF REVENUES FROM RUBBER.

Dr. JOSÉ PÃES DO CARVALHO, Governor of the State of Pará, in the last two messages sent by him to the Legislature of that State, dwells at length upon economic and industrial conditions and the efforts necessary toward improvements. Pará, as is well known, is one of the States producing rubber, and the superior profits from rubber culture have led to the stagnation of all other interests. Previous to the discovery of rubber agriculture flourished in the State, even if under primitive conditions, but now the sole dependence for food is upon foreign imports. The State has made appropriations for the encouragement of agriculture, for the establishment of factories of a character calculated to consume agricultural products, and for the encouragement of farming immigrants, and for industrial schools.

The development of navigation is also urged upon the legislature, particularly of streams not yet fully explored. It is suggested by the Executive that means should be taken for advertising the country's agricultural resources at the exposition in Paris in 1900.

Regarding the subject of taxation, the Governor favors the gradual introduction of land taxes, a system of license fees on various kinds of business, etc., in order that the burdens of providing public revenue may not continue to be borne by the exporters. As it is now, the development of exports is hampered by the imposition of the taxes referred to. The Executive favors the removal from municipalities of the power to impose taxes on exports and the undertaking by the State of the levying of all taxes of this character, a certain share to be distributed to the local authorities to the end that uniformity in taxation may be obtained. For the present he would place an extra State duty on rubber "because it is the only product which can support further taxation without serious loss to the producers."

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SÃO PAULO.

The city of São Paulo, the most active commercial city of Brazil, is about 40 miles from the Atlantic seacoast, at an altitude of 2,993 feet,

with a population estimated in 1899 at 225,000. It was recently reported that the São Paulo Railway Light and Power Company, Limited, which is a syndicate of United States and Canadian capitalists with an authorized capital of $10,000,000, had secured concessions for developing the street railway, light, and power interests of the city. According to the New York "Commercial" of September 15, the purchasing agent of this syndicate in New York City reports that contracts for more than $5,000,000 worth of supplies will be placed in the United States by the time the various enterprises for which franchises have been obtained shall have been completed.

Already contracts have been let for 40 miles of steel rails, costing $250,000; street cars, to the number of 65, costing $100,000; special track curves and crossings, worth $30,000; insulator feeder cable, worth $40,000; trolley wire, worth $15,000; steel wire, worth $2,000, and other machinery worth $49,000, besides pine lumber, hoisting engines, derricks, wagons, bolts, spikes, piping, and other necessary supplies for building and operating an electric steel railway, the value of which is not stated.

Mr. W. P. PLUMMER, the purchasing agent, gives the names of the firms to whom the contracts have been let, and reports that the materials will be shipped to São Paulo as fast as they can be got ready.

BOUNDARY CONTROVERSY WITH FRENCH GUIANA.

In the "Comptes Rendus" of the French Geographical Society, published in March, 1899, Mr. M. S. BROUSSEAU contributes a short account of the territory under dispute between France and Brazil. The writer, after referring to the discovery of gold in 1894 in the district in dispute by CLEMENT TAMBA and PIERRE VILLIERS, of Cayenne, the former an illiterate negro, briefly sketches the physical features, geology, and native population of the country. Mr. BROUSSEAU'S knowledge of the country is based on journeys he made in 1894, during which he was able to determine the position of the sources of most of the streams between the Oyapok, the river which forms the boundary between Brazil and French Guiana, and the Amazon. The geological formations in the disputed territory are similar to those of French Guiana, but the climate is said to be far more healthy. Until the discovery of gold the French laid no claim to the country in dispute, and now have no pretext of actual occupation, but they base their rights as regards the interior on certain ambiguous clauses in the Treaty of Utrecht. Their present claim embraces the whole country south of all the Guianas as far as the Rio Branco, and Great Britain and Holland are, therefore, to a certain extent, also interested in the final settlement of the question.

THE CENSUS OF 1890.

The difficulty which besets census taking, compilation, and publication in some of the South American countries is evidenced by the fact that the figures of the census of Brazil, taken on December 31, 1890,

have only recently been published. These figures show, as compared with those of the census of 1872, the following results:

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1890	7,237,932	7,095,983	14,133,915
1872	5,123,869	4,806,609	9,930,478

The increase in eighteen years was 4,403,437, which is equivalent to 443 per thousand or 24.6 per thousand annually.

MONTHLY POSTAL SERVICE WITH FRANCE.

According to the "Nouveau Monde," of September 9, 1899, the Board of Directors of the French Merchant Marine at its last session adopted resolutions in favor of—

(1) The establishment of a monthly postal and commercial service between France and the cities of Pará and Manaos;

(2) The establishment of regular maritime intercourse between France and the Pacific coast of South America by granting a subsidy to all vessels destined for commerce with the countries bordering on it, as, since the liquidation of the Maritime Pacific Company, trade with them has seriously fallen off.

These resolutions were transmitted to the Minister of Marine, requesting a favorable report on them to the Minister of Trade and Industry.

EXPORTS OF RUBBER THROUGH BELEM AND PARA.

During the month of June there were exported through the port of Belem 1,332,245 kilos of rubber, of which 791,289 kilos were destined for Europe and 540,956 for the United States. These totals included 533,931 kilos of fine rubber, 78,035 kilos of medium grade, 284,496 kilos of sernamby, and 436,483 of "caucho"—458,540 kilos being credited to Manaos.

The total amount of rubber exported during the first half of the present year is given as 9,441,988 kilos, 3,103,452 kilos going to Europe and 6,338,536 kilos to the United States. The quality is indicated as follows: Fine rubber, 5,271,167 kilos; medium grade, 773,288 kilos; sernamby, 2,559,759 kilos, and caucho, 897,774 kilos.

The British Consul at Pará, under date of July 6, 1899, informs his Government that there was a considerable increase in the production and export of india rubber during the fiscal year ending June 30. The crop that entered Pará in that period, including rubber and caucho in transit from Manaos, Bolivia, and Peru, amounted to 25,374 tons, being an increase of 14 per cent on the crop of the previous year. The exports were to the following countries: United States, 12,398 tons; Great Britain, 10,141.75 tons; France, 2,519.75 tons; other countries, 188.50 tons; total, 25,248 tons. The exports for the fiscal year 1898 were 22,218 tons—an increase of 3,030 tons in 1899.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

In the State of São Paulo the newspapers complain that the gatherers of mangabeira rubber do not confine their operations to tapping the trees. It is stated that not only are trees and shrubs cut down, but even the roots of the larger trees are dug up. Those interested in the future development of the State and nation protest against this wanton destruction of the sources of what might, with proper restrictions, be developed into a permanent and profitable industry.

"Estado de São Paulo" reports that an association of individuals headed by Senhor ANTONIO DE PADUA MACHADO, Jr., has petitioned the legislative assembly of the State of São Paulo for a concession and guaranty for the construction of a railroad from Cruzeiro, on the Central Railway, to the village of São Bom Jesus de Bocaino, about 20 kilometers (12.43 miles). The petitioners ask for a fifty years' privilege and an interest guaranty on the capital invested up to $1,000,000.

On August 10, 1899, the Anglo-Brazilian Gold Syndicate was admitted to registry in London. The founders were G. H. BARBER & SONS. The objects set forth are "to seek for and secure openings for the employment of capital in Brazil or elsewhere, to acquire the lessee's interests in the lease of the estate of Santa Quiteria, Santa Barbara, Brazil, and to carry on the business of miners, smelters, etc." The capital stock is £20,000, in £1 shares.

The Amazon Steam Navigation Company, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances, declared a dividend of 4 per cent for 1898. In consequence of the rise in exchange and the permission of the Government to increase the freight charges, the situation has become very favorable. The opening of the upper tributaries of the river and the large production of rubber has induced this company to increase the number of its steamers engaged in this trade.

Among the agricultural products imported by Brazil during the first five months of the present year were 4,051,790 kilos (148,876 bushels) of potatoes. France furnished nearly one-half of the supply (1,819,366 kilos), with Portugal as a close second (1,600,560 kilos). Most of the remainder was received from Great Britain, while Belgium, Spain, Germany, Italy, the Argentine Republic, and Chile each furnished small supplies.

It is stated that Italian immigration to the northern States of Brazil has been forbidden by the Italian Government. The climate is not regarded as suitable for Europeans. The officials of the State of Pará had previously agreed to place a number of large tracts of land at the disposal of the Italian colonists.

The National Society of Agriculture will send to the Commercial Museum at Philadelphia a number of samples of tobacco and cigars. The Brazilian Government believes that these samples will compare favorably with the tobacco of Virginia, Connecticut, Havana, and Sumatra.

The local papers report that the Minister of Finance has ordered the collection of special statistics regarding wheat, to be furnished to the Agricultural Department of the United States.

BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE).

PROPOSED RAILROAD.

At present the only means of access to the interior of British Honduras is by canoe up the numerous rivers and by horseback over the bridle paths which constitute the only roads. On July 22, 1899, the British Secretary of State for the Colonies addressed the Governor of Belize with reference to proposals made by R. W. PERKS, M. P., for the construction and working of a railway in the colony, including a pier at Belize, and for the extension of the line to a place at or near La Libertad or Flores, in the Peten Province of Guatemala.

Mr. PERKS asks for a grant of £75,000 ($363,950), payable in five installments of £15,000 ($72,990) each, on the completion of a given number of miles on each section of the railway so that they may be opened for traffic, and for a land grant of 200,000 acres, to be made in blocks of 40,000 acres as and when each of the sections of the line shall be completed and open for traffic. On August 15, this proposal of Mr. PERKS was accepted by the Legislative Council, with the recommendation that if approved by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN the work should begin not later than February, 1900.

Mr. WILLIAM L. AVERY, the United States Consul at Belize, in reporting (on August 22) this matter to the Department of State at Washington, says that if the Republic of Guatemala permits the road to be built into Peten, there will be a large traffic from that district in mahogany and logwood, and fruit raising and agriculture will be developed in the interior of Belize, these industries being now confined to the coast. He also adds that while it is true that this proposal comes from English capitalists, there is little doubt that the entire equipment will be purchased in the United States, for the railways now in operation in Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are equipped with United States rolling stock and machinery, this having been done in Costa Rica at the expense of discarding the foreign equipment found in use there. It is the opinion of Mr. AVERY that any railroad scheme will increase the trade of British Honduras both to and from the United States.

CHILE.

PROPOSED NITRATE TRUST.

The report comes from London of a project for the organization of a nitrate trust. Negotiations to this end have been carried on between the house of ANTON GIBBS & SONS and a number of persons having large interests in the nitrate trade, the purpose being the formation of a great selling syndicate which will monopolize the importation and sale of the product. It appears that the preliminary arrangements of this undertaking were carried on by the "Permanent Nitrate Committee," and is to become effective after its approval by all the producers. Briefly summarized, the plan is as follows:

The producers shall agree among themselves as to the amount to be produced. They agree to consign all their shipments of nitrate to the firm of ANTON GIBBS & SONS, which firm is to attend to all business transactions, including the chartering of ships and disposal of the product. The said firm is to advance, in first-class London exchange, at least 5 shillings per hundredweight for all nitrate. This arrangement is made for five years and may be continued for an additional period of five years if ANTON GIBBS & SONS so elect.

The Chilean producers are to establish their own committee in London, with whom ANTON GIBBS & SONS will consult in regard to production, time of shipment, destination, and the loading and selling prices, the decision resting with the firm. The production during the first year is to be limited to 29,000,000 quintals; in each succeeding year, the minimum production is to be fixed in proportion to the consumption with 10 per cent increase over the consumption of the previous year. The members of the firm of ANTON GIBBS & SONS declare themselves ready to organize large syndicates in all countries where nitrates are used, and all arrangements with such organizations which will be agents of the central office in London are first to be approved by the producers and are to have a sufficient capital. A scale of prices is to be established which will allow large dealers an advantage. All sales are to be made from the docks or at the warehouses. Interest rates on debts are to be 1 per cent above bank rates, but not considered at less than 4½ per cent; the interest on credits is to be computed at bank rates. ANTON GIBBS & SONS are to receive a commission of 1 per cent on sales and the syndicate one of 1½ per cent, and a further 10 per cent on the selling price above £8 10s. to £9 10s. delivered. Bills of consignment are to be rendered monthly.

In addition to the firm named, the following persons are named as being interested in the project: F. C. LOMAX, J. M. LOWE, E. WALDEN VINCENT, HENRY A. RAU, and NUGENT HARGRAVE.

A correspondent of the "Engineering and Mining Journal" for September 23, 1899, says that the attempt to restrict production of nitrate

by a general agreement or combination among the producers is still being pushed, but serious difficulties are yet to be overcome. The exports for July were 2,142,000 quintals, making a total of 14,428,000 quintals for the seven months, or almost 3,000,000 more than in the same period of 1898. Most of it went to European countries.

DEVELOPMENT OF COPPER MINING.

The leading article in the "Süd-Amerikanische Rundschau" for September is from the pen of Dr. DARAPSKY, upon the subject of copper mining in Chile, a general summary of which follows: The production of this metal in Chile, according to a German miner residing there, reached its maximum in the year 1876, with 52,208 tons and remained almost continually at a relatively high point until 1886, then to rapidly decline. The principal output comes from the northern provinces of Coquimbo and Atacama. In the southern part of the country copper mining is almost totally unknown, and only the old Spanish chronicles call to memory the fact that it was not entirely lacking there. Smelting, on the other hand, experienced large development, thanks to the nearness of the coal deposits in and under the sea at Coronel and Lota. Both points lie near to one another, a few miles south of Concepción and the mouth of the Biobio River.

The mines of Lota were founded in 1825 by MATIAS COUSIÑO, whose family to-day are the principal owners of the "Compañía Explotadora de Lota y Coronel." In Coronel the successors of F. W. SCHWAGER are engaged in smelting the copper ores bought along the coast. The even tertiary coal formation is well known southward as far as Araucuana; notwithstanding this, the Arauco Company and the undertaking of Baron ERLANGER at Curanilahue have met with but little success. Coal is also found in the interior and there are indications that the whole Chilean valley contains deposits valuable enough to mine. The coastwise steamers and street railways use this coal with profit, but the blast furnaces in the North and the nitrate industries prefer the Australian product. The determining factor is not so much the lesser heating quality or its liability to instantaneous combustion—which is said to be a fault with Chilean coal—as its comparatively high price. Coastwise freight opportunities are limited and irregular, whereas ocean freight rates, thanks to the wheat and nitrate exports, are generally cheap. An important defect in Chilean coal is its incapability of coking. On this account the often planned introduction of the iron industry has not taken place, notwithstanding the presence of iron ore easy of access and in large quantities. In the province of Coquimbo 60 per cent iron ore is obtained.

In the province of Santiago, the geographical and political center of the country, there are large copper deposits, and some years ago smelting works, under German management, were in full blast at Llaillai, the junction of the Valparaiso and Santiago Railway with the line

running through the valley of the Aconcagua. Then, as now, there was no consolidation of the best mines under proper business management, and on this account the attempt to mine copper by the regenerative system was unsuccessful. Rich ore is obtained from many mines in the Andes of San Felipe, partly near the snow line. Among other sulphides, mineral stromeyerite (sulphide of silver and sulphide of copper) is found. The province of Coquimbo is, however, more important, on account of the two large smelting works, both in the hands of English capitalists, which rival those of Lota and Coronel, the one at Guayacan, close to the port of Coquimbo, and the other known as "La Compañía," separated from the capital city of the province by the river Serena. The latter obtains its ore chiefly from the old mine "Brillador," which yields copper sulphate and had its origin in the copper mountain "Tamaya," which was first worked by LAMBERT in 1845. Tamaya is now deserted. "Guayacan" is, after "Lota," the largest smelting establishment on the coast.

Proceeding north, the province of Atacama participates very largely in the copper production of Chile. It is known historically that copper was found there in the seventeenth century, long before anyone ever dared to hope to discover gold or silver in Chile, and it was the finding of the fabulously rich silver veins in Chanancillo in 1832 and Trespuntas in 1848, the first to the south and the second to the north of Copiapó, that caused copper mining to be neglected. To-day the massive lodes of ore and the beautiful reddish-golden crystals are only a memory. The whole district is controlled by the banking house of EDWARDS, which carries on smelting works in Tierra Amarilla and also owns the greater portion of the railroad to Caldera, the oldest railway line in South America. It nominally belongs to an English company, but for many years it has hardly paid a dividend of 2 per cent. It is striking that of all the many abandoned or never developed mines, it was the "Dulcinea," owned by an English company (the Copiapó Mining Company), that for many years not only prospered but a short time since furnished considerable ore.

The furnaces of the Panulcillo Smelting Company worked for a score of years in good order, while near them the rich Tamayas had long been dormant, and when the ore supply of this small territory was at last exhausted, the company went into liquidation. The large English undertaking in the Camorones was less fortunate in the interior of Huasco. Here it became necessary to cease working before anything of importance had been accomplished, but there seems to be no doubt that the reports of the experts erred in regard to the prospects. Since then copper has been left to itself in Chile and foreign capital has sought investments in gold or nitrate mining. It was only at the end of the year 1898, that, influenced by the rise in the copper market, the Copper Corporation of Chile, Limited, was formed with a capital of £200,000 for the purpose of working a series of mines near the port of

Chanaral, which district is very rich in copper. The house of EDWARDS formerly owned smelting works in this locality, and it was here that FEDERICO VARELA laid the foundation of his great fortune in the same branch of business; further, the local "Compañía de Minas y Fundición de Chanaral" gave promise of greatness, but soon became crippled. There were also a number of important undertakings of similar character which failed on account of want of transportation facilities, not to speak of the shortsightedness of the proprietors, which brought about their early destruction, as in the case of the well-known mine "Limbo im Salado," or the Mondaca, near Carrizal.

Of the local companies, one firm of Gonzalez, YZAGA Y CIA., were able to obtain permanent satisfactory results. An English house, under the direction of the far-sighted SAMPSON WATER, managed the Carrizalillo mines, northeasterly from Chañaral, from 1855 to 1881 with great success, during which time it is calculated that two and a half million metric hundredweights of ore were taken out. These mines were sold in 1881. The purchaser, however, was deceived in his expectations regarding them. Since then no large mines have been opened on a grand scale in the north, but attempts have not been wanting. It is sufficient to name the mountain of "El Cobre," near the twenty-fourth degree of latitude, which, in the "Fifties," was considered phenomenally rich. Now no one thinks of attempting, as formerly, to obtain the treasures of the desert of Atacama.

The nitrate beds of Tarapaca afford a profit more easily obtained. Still the interior of Taltal and Antofagasta is really a copper country, especially on the coast of Taltal, as far as the river Loa, where there is an unbroken line of mines. In Paposo, along the twenty-fifth parallel, there are large groups of copper veins. Farther in the interior, 150 kilometers from the coast, on the frontier of Chañaral and Taltal, there is a mine of recent date with veins several kilometers in extent, yielding 70 tons of ore monthly with over 35 per cent clear sulphide of copper.

The condition of mining in Chile is withal deplorable. The decline, which commenced at the time of the introduction of modern means of transportation and machinery in Europe and North America, will be best explained by a short retrospect. At the beginning of the century Chile was hopelessly poor. Indeed, it seemed as though she could not repay the pecuniary help which England afforded her in the struggle for independence. English mining engineers who, like JOHN MIERS, critically investigated the resources of the country found nothing to induce them to undertake plans of any magnitude. It was in the "Thirties" that the discovery of unthought of silver mines instilled fresh courage into the hearts of the indefatigable Chileans. All who to-day are considered wealthy in the country, with few exceptions, trace their fortunes to special mines. Gold was discovered in California almost at the same time that the Spanish countries commenced to

produce the, to them, more valuable silver, which at that time was worth twice what it is to-day.

Further, grain became valuable as an article of export, first to California, then to Australia. While neighboring countries were engaging in revolutions, Chile kept steadily at work both above and under the earth. The blessings were infinite. To-day all is changed. Silver has departed—indeed, the old process of mining it could be hardly possible to-day. Agriculture has been met by keen competition. The Argentine exporter now dares to ship cereals to Chilean ports. Nuts and honey are but trifling as profit bringers. Leather demands professional energy. Wine is not suitable for export. The Government is now earnestly looking to protective duties on imports. But for a long time all went well. When the first and second depths in Chañarcillo were exhausted, a third not having been found, a new silver "El Dorado" was discovered at Caracoles in the littoral of Antofagasta, at that time in Bolivian territory. Chilean energy immediately commenced its development, and put down at Deseada the deepest shaft in the whole country, viz, 600 meters (1,968 feet). There were other, though less important, discoveries. To-day Caracoles is a ruin, while just opposite, in Sierra Gorda, and all around throughout a wide circuit more copper is daily obtained. Then came the war with Peru, resulting in the acquisition of all the nitrate beds.

Unfortunately, the necessities increased proportionately with the revenues. An army and navy, education, art, and matters pertaining to higher civilization demanded attention. The Government took up the building of railways in the southern section of the country, but in the mining regions of the northern part nothing was done. This explains sufficiently the decline of the mining industry. The formation of the "Sociedad de Minera," a careful investigation as to the possibilities of the introduction of iron industries, and even the establishment of a school of mines and metallurgical bureau, had little effect. In new countries mining is best carried on by private parties. To extend operations large capital is necessary, which is not to be found in the country itself. It was secured in abundance from abroad for the nitrate industry, and this makes possible the carrying on of this business. The difficulties have now been overcome.

The time now seems propitious for foreign capital to interest itself in Chilean mines. The preparation for this was the national mining law of December 20, 1888. While under the former law of 1874 the mining rights depended upon a certain amount of work performed and ore obtained, now the much simpler plan of a yearly rental has been adopted and other changes made which will lessen the probabilities of legal complications. As always, when internal reasons exist the external measures will not apply, so it is that the new law has not been the means of resuscitating this important industry. Home capital is small and prefers landed property, vineyards, and other branches of

business activity giving immediate returns. In these, profits of 10 per cent are easily obtained in Chile. The wish is general in influential circles to have foreign capital and foreign talent and labor bring new life into the too-long neglected Chilean mining industries. Just as the Government invited great iron establishments to locate in Chile, so every step to improve the situation in regard to copper mining will receive the heartiest encouragement. The acquisition of a small group of old mines will avail nothing. This is the way heretofore adopted to inaugurate English companies. Success will be met with by a consolidation of the mines located in a certain territory, in connection with the systematic working of them. Scarcely anyhing of this kind has been done heretofore.

There are many natural difficulties. The mountainous country is a drawback. Railways reach all the important ports (Coquimbo, Huasco, Caldera, Chanaral, Taltal, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Iquique), but they hardly touch the foot of the Cordilleras, the real guardian of the earth's secrets; and there are many mines so far from the railway that the only means for the transportation of their products is by mule and wagon. Further, the whole territory is a desert, without water and without means of subsistence. Even the feed for the animals must be obtained from Valparaiso. Notwithstanding this, they are not to be compared with the wild plains of Australia and North America. Here all is close together and near the coast. The nitrate industry has surrounded itself with every comfort. Water is found everywhere in the higher mountains. The Antofagasta Railway carries water from a heighth of 3,200 meters, more than 300 kilometers to the coast. The Lautaro Nitrate Company brings it 120 kilometers to its nitrate works. Electric railways have not as yet been constructed, but the possibilities for them are many.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO SHIPPING MERCHANTS.

The French Chamber of Commerce of Santiago de Chile has recently forwarded a communication to the several chambers of commerce of France, of which Mr. JOHN C. COVERT, United States Consul at Lyons, under date of August 8, 1899, sent a translation to the Department of State at Washington, believing it would be of equal importance to citizens of the United States having business relations with Chile. The communication from Santiago reads as follows:

"At present the majority of French houses doing business with Chile insert the names of the real purchasers or consignees on the bills of lading. However natural this may seem, it is none the less dangerous.

"It may happen that between the departure of the order and the arrival [of the goods] in Chile, the situation of the purchaser has materially changed. Then the bank or the agent charged to remit the documents, who may wish to prevent the delivery of the goods, is placed in an embarrassing situation, because the documents being in the name of

the consignee or purchaser, either he, or his assignee, if he has failed, has the right to seize the goods in the custom-house. If the bankrupt or his representative does not claim the goods, the custom officers will hold them, and the seller, to obtain possession of his property, must bring a suit for annulment of contract, which is far from easy and may readily become onerous.

"To obviate all this, it is only necessary for the shipper to observe the following suggestions:

"(1) If the bills of lading are remitted to the purchaser or consignee in exchange for the acceptance of a draft, the best plan is to draw them to the order of a bank, which indorses and changes them for the accepted drafts.

"(2) If the immediate acceptance of the draft is not demanded, an understanding may be had with a bank by addressing the bill of lading to it and making use of its intermediary. That will cost a slight commission, but it is cheaper than to lose the goods.

"If the bills of lading are to be remitted by an agent to the purchaser or consignee, it is wiser to send them at once to the agent.

"In following these suggestions, shippers will avoid a great many unpleasant surprises and difficulties, as nothing will defeat, in case of bankruptcy, their possible rights to the goods shipped."

THE TRANS-ANDEAN RAILROAD.

It is now a well-established fact that the Trans-Andean Railway, which was originally intended to run via Uspallata, will not touch at that point because of the great expense involved in carrying out the plan. However, the engineers formerly engaged with the boundary commission to locate a definite line of separation between the territory of Chile and that of the Argentine Republic, and who are thereby thoroughly acquainted with the ramifications of the Cordilleras in the Province of Mendoza, are reported by the "Süd Amerikanische Rundshau" to be of the opinion that south of the thirty-fourth parallel of latitude and of the Maipo Mountain there are a number of passes (de la Laguna and del Maipo) through any of which a railroad may be constructed with comparative ease.

On the Argentine side of the mountains the road could pass through the Yanja Valley and on the Chilean side the most direct way would be through the Valley of Maipo. These Chilean engineers assert that this part of the Andean range is very suitable for railroad building, there being no great obstacles except at Extravio and Mal Paso, as the highest point is but 2,300 meters (7,546 feet) above sea level. It appears that both the Chilean and Argentine Governments will gradually build their shares of the road. The cost to Chile is estimated at 14,000,000 Chilean pesos (paper), while the expense over the longer stretch in the Argentine Republic will be but 8,000,000 pesos. When the new line is

completed it is claimed that the journey from Santiago to Buenos Ayres will not take more than forty hours. The benefits accruing to both countries from such an artery of traffic is incalculable.

STATISTICS OF FOREIGN COMMERCE.

The "Chilean Times" states that the foreign trade of Chile in 1898 amounted to $270,331,429. Of this sum the imports were represented by $102,262,058 and the exports by $168,069,431. In the former there was a diminution of $35,948,860, and in the latter an increase of $31,438,211 over the previous year. The customs revenues in 1898 amounted to $65,798,218, as against $61,186,308 in 1897.

The ordinary revenues of Chile for the first half year of 1899, as compared with those for the same period of last year, were as follows:

First half year of 1899	$38,189,344
First half year of 1898	28,734,732
Increase	9,454,612

The greatest increases have been in the articles following:

Exports of nitrate	$3,754,484
Profits from sale of gold	5,237,640
Profits from sale of bills of exchange	824,652
Postal and telegraph services	97,641
Stamped paper and revenue stamps	42,064

All branches of the public service show an increase in receipts, with the exception of the import duties, which show a falling off of $1,039,457.

The extraordinary revenues for the two half years mentioned were as follows:

In 1899	$3,599,159
In 1898	1,550,909
Increase	2,048,250

Thus giving a total increase in revenue from all sources amounting to $11,502,862.

"El Mercurio" of Valparaiso urges the Government to utilize a portion of the $48,000,000, which the nitrate fields of Tarapacá yield to the Government annually, in solving the irrigation problem in that territory and in encouraging the establishment of new industries, as has been done with the manufacture of beet sugar by assisting the manufacturers with a moderate bounty, and goes on to say that if this is not done the country runs the risk of the nitrate becoming exhausted and the people again being as poor as they were before they had in their own hands that immense treasure which now seems almost inexhaustible.

The commercial statistics of Chile, published in August, show that the imports in 1898 were nearly $36,000,000 less than in the previous year, while the exports exceeded those of the previous year by nearly

$31,000,000. The following table shows the principal increases during the years 1897–1898:

	1897.	1898.
Nitrate	$79,043,889	$90,675,297
Copper in bars	11,027,280	29,600,103
Wheat	5,435,240	7,696,460
Gold in bars and bullion	1,909,904	2,445,735
Beans	777,609	1,163,211
Copper ingots	358,299	2,022,730
Borate of lime	598,755	1,124,509

In the year 1897 the coined gold and silver exported were valued at $422,901, while in 1898 they were valued at $14,041,766. With respect to copper, the difference was due largely to the price. The exports for 1897 were 19,011 tons, and for 1898, 20,600 tons. As to the imports the falling off is noticeable all down the line. Of the 15 classifications set forth in the "Estadistica Comercial" only one article shows an increase, and this is not only in the luxuries, but in articles which would come under the head of necessaries; for instance, the decrease in articles of food amounted to $9,263,337, in textiles to $9,721,060, in raw materials to $3,610,521, in industrial and other machinery and implements to $6,999,819, and in household furniture and utensils to $2,937,177.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Westinghouse Electric Light and Manufacturing Company has recently installed an electric light plant for the nitrate works at Tarapacá.

The consumption of nitrate from Chile by European countries during the first quarter of the present year was more than 1,300,000 quintals in excess of the amount purchased by the same countries during the corresponding period of 1898.

According to the report of the British Minister at Santiago, raw cotton and cotton machinery will be exempt from import duties during a period of ten years. The law appears to be retroactive, for the Minister says the term of exemption dates from January 9, 1899.

The wheat crop of the Republic has suffered to a great extent during the present year in consequence of unfavorable weather. According to the estimates of experts only about 40,000 tons will be available for shipment to Europe. Of this quantity about 15,000 tons have already been sent to England. The barley crop, it is estimated, will be 9,000 tons, but reliable figures are not obtainable. Only small shipments have been sent abroad. According to the official statistics the exports of wheat (all to Europe) in 1898 were 76,964,606 kilograms, and of barley, 16,405,528 kilograms.

COLOMBIA.

EXTRAORDINARY SALE OF EMERALDS

Writing to the Department of State at Washington, under date of July 21, 1899, Hon. CHARLES BURDETT HART, Minister of the United States at Bogotá, gives a description of the scenes incident to extraordinary demand for emeralds in that city during the month named. He says that until very recently emeralds have been a drug in the market of Bogotá. Persons desiring to buy them had only to wait and have them brought to them. The famous Muzo mine, which has produced emeralds of great value and in large quantities, lies near Bogotá, and the people of this city have long been familiar with its product. This mine is operated by a French company, which insists that for the past ten years or so it has been able to find almost no emeralds. However, from this source or from others, crude emeralds have continued to come into Bogotá, and of the cut stone, set and unset, there has been an abundance in the market. Hard times have compelled many persons to offer their highly prized heirlooms for sale, and these have been obtainable, as a rule, at very low prices.

About the 10th of July Bogotá awoke to the fact that an emerald craze had seized upon it. The jewelry stores and all other establishments where emeralds are dealt in were besieged by persons wishing to buy them and others wishing to sell, and for the same reasons men and women crowded the streets, standing in the roadway as well as on the sidewalks, some displaying their emeralds and others their money. A jewelry establishment located on the most prominent corner in Bogotá was compelled to ask the police to drive the crowd away. Soon the news spread outside of the city and emerald buyers began to rush in. This swelled the throng and sent the fever up several degrees.

Sales were made right and left at prices hitherto unheard of in this market. Persons who had not thought of selling, tempted by the wild rush to buy, brought out their emeralds and went to trading. Nobody could explain the real cause of the excitement, and many are now beginning to realize that it was without real cause. Within five days the fever reached its height, and from that time began to decline. While it lasted, emeralds sold, on a gold basis, at about three times their value in this market just before the excitement began. It is estimated that up to July 21 about 4,000,600 pesos changed hands as a result of the furore.

When the incident had passed and the crowd had disappeared from the streets, many buyers who went in at flood tide found themselves with emeralds that would not bring the price paid; others, also inexperienced, had more or less excellent imitations as souvenirs of this extraordinary movement. It does not appear that any of the expert

dealers bought so extravagantly as the general public, and yet it is believed that some of these far overreached themselves.

The only approach to an explanation of this craze is that a Bogotá dealer who went to Paris recently, on his return to the city, began to buy emeralds at higher prices than had been ruling in the market. This seems to have lighted the flame. Some of the experts say that this dealer drew out of the market long before the prices reached their height, and that the cause of his doing so was that emeralds were selling in Bogotá for higher prices than they would bring in Europe.

ECUADOR.

EXPORTS OF RUBBER.

In a recent report the British Consul at Guayaquil says that the increased demand for rubber has attracted renewed attention to the product of Ecuador. It is now being collected from forest trees in the interior at points remote from the seacoast, where its extraction was formerly considered unremunerative because of the cost of transportation. As, however, within a few years crude rubber has almost doubled in value, there is a profit in gathering and transporting it.

The Consul reports that a large proportion of the rubber which was formerly sent to the United States now goes to London and other European ports. At the ports of shipment in Ecuador the prices received for crude rubber range from £9 ($43.80) to £10 ($48.66) per 100 pounds. In 1897 the exports of rubber from Guayaquil amounted to 590,400 pounds, valued at $229,831, United States currency. In 1898 the amount exported was 932,400 pounds, worth $454,192, an increase of nearly 100 per cent in the total value of the product.

ARC OF THE MERIDIAN AT QUITO.

During the sessions of the International Geodetic Conference, held in the city of Stuttgart, Germany, in 1898, at the instance of an American delegate, it was voted to be the sense of the conference that the measurement of the arc of the meridian on the equator near Quito should be revised with the greatest accuracy possible by the use of modern methods. The measurement in use was that made in the latter part of the last century by MM. BOUGUER, LA CONDAMINE, and GODIN, French scientists. The idea was taken up by the Geographical Society of France, and a committee was appointed to consider the question. In January, 1899, this committee decided to recommend the matter to the consideration of the French Government, suggesting, as desirable, an arc of 5 degrees to 6 degrees, so that the result might admit of comparison with similar operations now being carried on in the Old World. The Government gave its consent, and in May announced that the work

had been delegated to Captains MAUPIN and LA COMBE, experienced officers in the geodetic section of the "Service Géographique," and these experts are now taking the required observations.

THE MATTRESS TREE.

According to a German explorer, the Indians of the Cordilleras make excellent mattresses and coverlets of the bark of a tree which they call "demajagua." This bark is about the thickness of a heavy flannel, and after undergoing special treatment by the natives becomes soft and flexible and may be folded and rolled as readily as any felting.

In order to procure this valuable bark, the Indian gatherers make a double incision around the tree at intervals of about two meters. It is then carefully detached with the aid of sharp tools and plunged into water, where it remains for several hours. Finally the outer rough surface is rubbed smooth, and it is rendered soft and pliable by repeated strokes of small hammers designed for the purpose.

It appears that there is a good trade in these economical mattresses in the Andean regions.

GUATEMALA.

TRADE-MARK CONVENTION WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The Foreign Office of Great Britain has issued as a separate document (Treaty Series, No. 16) the convention between the United Kingdom and Guatemala relative to trade-marks, signed at Guatemala City July 20, 1898, with exchange of ratifications in the same city on July 28, 1899. This document reads as follows:

"Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, etc., and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Guatemala, being desirous to conclude a convention for the mutual protection of trade-marks and designs, have for the purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries, namely: Her Majesty the Queen, etc., GEORGE BIRT JENNER, Esq., her Minister Resident in Central America, and His Excellency the President of Guatemala, Dr. FRANCISCO ANGUIANO, Secretary of State for the Department of the Interior and Justice and in charge of that of the Foreign Relations, who, after having mutually communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed to the following articles:

"ARTICLE 1. The subjects or citizens of each of the contracting parties shall have, in the dominions and possessions of the other, the same rights as are now granted, or may hereafter be granted, to national subjects or citizens in all that relates to trade-marks, industrial designs, and patterns. In order that such rights may be obtained, the formalities required by the laws of the respective countries must be fulfilled.

"ART. 2. The stipulations of the present convention shall be applicable to all the colonies and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty excepting to those hereinafter named, that is to say, except to India, the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand: Provided always that the stipulations of the present convention shall be made applicable to any of the above-named colonies or foreign possessions on whose behalf notice to that effect shall have been given by Her Britannic Majesty's representative to the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Guatemala within one year from the date of the ratifications of the present convention.

"ART. 3. The present convention shall be ratified as soon as possible, and shall remain in force for five years, which will commence to run one month after the exchange of ratifications, which shall take place in the City of Guatemala. Nevertheless, if one year before the expiration of that term neither of the two contracting parties shall have announced to the other, by means of an official declaration, the intention of putting an end to the present convention, it shall continue binding until the lapse of a year after such declaration shall have been made."

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

According to a report made to his Government by the French Consul in Guatemala, Mr. GOUBAUD, the commercial relations which existed some years ago between France and Guatemala were quite important, the French vessels, principally from the port of Bordeaux, making trips to Guatemalan ports with full cargoes, taking on their return coffee, rubber, cabinet woods, etc. At present English and German navigation companies transport directly, via Magellan, merchandise coming from Europe, and goods shipped by Colon and Panama arrive at their destination on American steamers, while the French flag is no longer seen in these waters.

During the year 1898, 440,543 packages of merchandise, having a declared value of 3,880,668 pesos, entered the ports of Guatemala. In this amount France figures for but 9,966 packages, with a declared value of 217,337 pesos. The United States, "by reason of its exceptionally developed export trade with Guatemala," is represented by about half of the amount cited, France occupying the fourth rank in the commercial scale of the country, her exports consisting chiefly of wines and liquors, brandies, drugs, and medicines, fine perfumery, and fancy articles. Germany is second in commercial standing, with exports of machines and manufactured articles, England holding the third place, 50 per cent of her exports being composed of cotton and linen goods.

Formerly France exported to Guatemala a large quantity of raw and manufactured articles, such as all kinds of fancy articles in bronze and copper, publications, drugs, etc., but now this country is obliged to

contend against the United States, who rivals her in exports of these very articles. The cities of Guatemala, Quezaltenango, and Retalhulen are the principal commercial centers, where the merchants of the surrounding country go for supplies.

GOVERNMENT AID FROM PRIVATE BANKS.

According to a press dispatch from San Francisco, advices from Guatemala City, dated August 16, 1899, say that four of the banks of that city have entered into arrangements whereby they will loan the Government $2,500,000, deliveries to be made in monthly installments of $200,000 each. The Government, it is said, has offered tangible guaranties. This will at least temporarily ease the national exchequer. The banks are authorized to issue an addition to their paper in currency equivalent to the sum in question.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

An export duty of $20 per head has been imposed by the Government of Guatemala on cattle.

Owing to the supply of flour in the Republic being exhausted the city of Guatemala recently purchased $20,000 worth of the article in Valparaiso.

On September 26, 1899, a patent was issued to Señor JOSÉ GALLEGOS, of San José de Guatemala, on a static electric machine, by the United States Patent Office.

HONDURAS.

PURCHASE OF CATTLE FOR CUBA.

During the month of August, 1899, several agents from Cuba went to Honduras to purchase cattle to the number of 30,000, which created a great demand for them in all the Departments, many dealers being compelled to send to Salvador to make purchases necessary to fill their orders.

MEXICO.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DÍAZ.

On September 16, 1899, the Mexican Congress opened its semi-annual session, and President DÍAZ read his message, showing the progress of the Republic during the last six months. The principal features of this document are as follows:

"Since April of the present year 210 kilometers have been added to the railroad system of the country. This increase is contributed to by

the Mexican Central Railway with 37 kilometers on the branch from Yurécuaro to Ario; the Xico and San Rafael Railroad, with 51 kilometers; and the International, with 22 kilometers on its Guanacevi branch. The Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad has been extended to the Mexcala River, and the road from Juile to San Juan Evangelista has been completed. The country's railroad system now aggregates 13,369 kilometers, including 193 kilometers of private branches connecting with the lines subject to Federal jurisdiction, and 432 kilometers of tramway belonging to the States.

"The upward movement of the Federal revenue, which began some years back, far from ceasing, was maintained with greater vigor during the last fiscal year, the normal revenue for that period, which was estimated at $51,659,500 when the budget was presented to the Chamber, having exceeded $59,000,000, a figure which the annual yield of the public revenue has never before attained. The greater part of this increase is due to larger receipts in the way of import duties and the stamp taxes, for the former exceeds the collections of the year 1897–98 by $5,000,000, while the latter exceeded $23,000,000, whereas they were estimated in the budget at $21,208,000. It is a pleasure to me to inform Congress that the amount of revenue collected exceeded the disbursements authorized both by the budget and by subsequent law, so that, after all expenditures had been met, a surplus has remained on hand which will be added to the funds already deposited in the National Bank of Mexico."

Speaking of the recent conversion of the national debt, which has been referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, the President said that among the principal advantages to the Treasury of the conversion are a reduction of 1 per cent in the rate of interest, which is a considrable saving in the annual interest service; the suppression of the deposits and assignments of funds agreed upon as a guaranty in previous loan contracts, which will enable the Government to control those funds in the future and to use them in such manner as may be most profitable to the Treasury; the cancellation of the mortgage on the Tehuantepec Railway, and, finally, the unification of the gold debt. It had been agreed that the conversion should be effected at £23,000,000, bearing 5 per cent interest per annum, the bankers taking £13,000,000 firm at 96 per cent and the balance as an option at 97¼ per cent; but, on account of the favorable manner in which the transaction was received by the European and American public, as well as by the holders of the securities representing the old loan, the bankers decided to avail themselves of the option immediately. The conversion, therefore, was effected in full for £22,700,000, which sufficed for the conversion of the three 6 per cent loans and the Tehuantepec Railroad loan. This operation, besides involving an important economy in the service of the foreign debt, proves that the social and economical situation of the country inspire confidence. So much is this so that the bonds of the new loan are already quoted above par.

"Since the last Presidential message, 289,995 hectares of public land have been converted into private property. These transfers have been attended with the cancellation of $164,565 in securities of the public debt. During the last fiscal year vegetable and animal products were exported to the value of $49,500,000, in round numbers, showing an increase of $6,000,000 as compared with the exports in the previous fiscal year.

"The rosters and actual attendance at the elementary schools have increased considerably, due to the constant improvements that are being made therein, to the rigorous vigilance to which they are subjected, and to the fact that fathers of families are becoming more and more convinced of the necessity of primary instruction, which, not in vain, has been declared compulsory. A new school for boys and girls has been established in the capital, as also two elementary schools in the Tlalpan district; a night school for workmen in Santa Fe, Tacubaya district; four in the territory of Tepic, and two in the southern district of Lower California, making in all ten new schools during the course of the present year."

Referring to the progress of mining, the President said that from July, 1892, up to the present date, 10,099 titles, covering 86,426 claims of 1 hectare, have been issued. During the last fiscal year the exportation of mineral products, metallic and nonmetallic, was valued at $95,273,000, showing an increase of $3,835,000 over the exports of the previous year. The increase in the exportation of gold, which exceeded by $2,633,000 the exports of the previous year, is to be noted, and the same observation applies on a lesser scale to copper, lead, and antimony. The exploitation of copper mines is progressing, concessions for the working of deposits of that metal in the State of Colima having been applied for for the first time. The discovery of gold placers at Santa Clara, Lower California, aroused great interest, both in Mexico and abroad, and attracted to the placers a considerable number of miners and merchants. It was found that there was little gold there and that living was very dear, so a majority of the people left, and operations have subsided to the scale prevailing in the other placers in the territory.

Taking up the subject of post-office receipts, the Chief Magistrate said that they were $828,000, which, together with the receipts of the first half of the year, give a total of $1,595,000, which is an increase of $181,000 over the previous year. The dues for the international transit of correspondence with a foreign destination also increased considerably, amounting to 220,000 francs. Postal drafts to the amount of $3,300,000 were issued, against $1,200,000 in the previous year. The collections for the press showed an increase over the previous year of $138,000 in drafts left for collection and of $67,000 in actual collections.

"The manufacturing industries also give evidence of noteworthy progress, the following plants, which have been erected under concessions from the Federal Government for the utilization of water powers,

being especially entitled to mention on account of their evident importance: The Industrial Company, of Vera Cruz, erected a dam on the Rio Blanco in order to utilize a volume of water which under a suitable elevation produces 1,500 horsepower, consumed in the spinning and weaving factory of Santa Rosa, inaugurated in May of the present year; the Industrial Company, of Orizaba, constructed another dam on the Tlilapam River with a race of 1,700 meters in length, conveying the water to four turbines connected with dynamos, developing 2,250 horsepower; the electrical energy thus generated is transmitted by means of overhead wires to the Rio Blanco cotton factory; the San Ildefonso Company has completed all its waterworks on the Monte Alto River, including an aggregate of 25 kilometers of races with dams, sluices, and other engineering works of importance; along the Tlalnepantla River 25 more kilometers of races are about to be completed; the ensemble of these works, with their respective electric plants, will produce an effective energy of 5,500 steam horsepower, which will be transmitted to the City of Mexico; in the District of Atlixco, State of Puebla, another company has erected waterworks sufficient to produce 1,125 horsepower, to be utilized in a new spinning and weaving factory; still another company has completed waterworks on the Cuautitlan River of sufficient importance to produce 810 horsepower. The development of the manufacturing interest is also proved by the increased value of the exportation of manufactured products, amounting in the last fiscal year to more than $2,600,000, showing an increase of more than $700,000 over the preceding year. A considerable increase is also observed in the importation of machinery, copper wire, iron, steel, and coal. A corporation has recently been organized in Europe, composed of firms of high standing in Paris, Berlin, and Geneva, to undertake industrial enterprises in the Republic."

The President closed his message in these words:

"The progress achieved by the country in all the lines of endeavor that constitute the prosperity of a nation seems undeniable, but if there could be any doubt in this respect it would have been dispelled by the ease and the favorable conditions under which the conversion of our debt was effected. In fact, there is nothing which better serves to measure the solid prosperity of a nation, while at the same time flattering its legitimate pride, than the confidence inspired abroad by its economical arrangements. Our indisputable progress is due, in the first instance, unquestionably, to the prodigious influence of peace, and, if in a secondary manner the constant efforts of the Executive have served to nurture the fruit to ripeness, the principal merit is to be found in the noteworthy good sense which has developed incessantly in the Mexican people, in the industry and spirit of enterprise which are beginning to characterize them, and in the wisdom and loftiness of aim of their legislators."

RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF CHIAPAS.

M. MARTIN, French Consular Agent at San Juan Bautista, recently forwarded to his Government a very interesting report on the agriculture, industries, and commerce of the State of Chiapas, the most southern of the Mexican States bordering on the Pacific.

According to this report, the water courses of the Pacific slope are of very little importance, none being navigable. On the Atlantic slope, however, are the Chiapa or Mezcalapa River and the Usumacinta or "River of the Passion." The Usumacinta is divided into two branches, one of which empties at Nontera and the other at Carmen, in the State of Campeche. It is by these routes that immense quantities of valuable woods are brought down from the Departments of Palenque and Chilon, the exportation of these products constituting almost the only commercial movement of the port of Carmen, and in a great degree that of Nontera. The State possesses two ports on the Pacific—Sonala, in the Department of the same name, and San Benito, in Soconusco. Steamers plying between San Francisco and South America touch there, going and returning.

The last census gives a population of 318,730 inhabitants and a superficial area of 7,936,608 hectares, 2,461,932 hectares being the property of private individuals while the remainder is Government lands. Only a small part of these lands is cultivated; the greater portion is still virgin forest, covered with all sorts of valuable woods, india rubber trees, etc., and furnishing chicle and other resins. Until the present time the banks of the streams and rivers between Nontera and Carmen have been exclusively exploited. The climate is very warm on the coast, temperate at the base of the mountains by which the State is traversed, and cold on the summits.

Concerning imports and exports, Mr. MARTIN says that San Francisco supplies the foreign products for the Departments on the Pacific slope, including Sonala, Soconso, Comitán, Libertad, Chiapa, Tuxtla, and Las Casas. The Departments of Pichulco, Palenque, Simojovel, Chilon, and Mezcalapa, on the Atlantic slope, on the other hand, receive their imports from Europe and the United States.

The exports from the Pacific coast, which have been in the past very insignificant, are principally from the ports of San Benito and Sonala, San Francisco being the port of destination; and on the Atlantic coast, where the trade is very much more important, it is carried on through the ports of Nontera and Carmen, and consists chiefly of mahogany and cedar, received from the Departments of Palenque and Chilon, the latter especially being of almost incalculable wealth.

The import trade of the State is principally in cotton and woolen textiles, wines, liquors, oils, drugs, perfumes, fans, precious and fancy jewelry, toys, hardware, cooking utensils, furniture, porcelains, office furnishings, etc.

The French agent reports favorably on the fertility of Chiapas in comparing it with the State of Tabasco, adding that it is impossible to find throughout the entire tropical region a richer vegetation or more varied products, the climatic conditions making it a favored spot and even richer than Tabasco. Cultivation, intelligently carried on, would produce immense wealth; but now, scarcely 25,000 hectares out of a total area of 7,936,608 are developed. Labor is much more abundant than in Tabasco; but the very fertility of the soil and the lack of ambition on the part of the inhabitants are the leading causes of this deplorable state of affairs. Agricultural science is completely unknown, the natives being utterly ignorant of even the most primitive agricultural implements.

The principal products are indigo, sugar, alcohol, cotton, cacao, coffee, Indian corn, beans, rice, wood peas, vanilla, henequen, mahogany, cedar, dyewoods, wheat, roucou, and all fruits found in the torrid and temperate zones. Cattle raising is carried on extensively. Silver, iron, gold, copper, marble of all kinds, coal, and petroleum are found in abundance. There are several sugar plantations which have been under cultivation for periods ranging from 10 to 25 years, where the original plants have never been renewed and which give to-day excellent returns. The entire work consists in cutting the cane and passing it through the mill. This indicates that the land is admirably adapted to this culture, and that surprising results might be obtained were the plants renewed every five years. The annual production of sugar cane for this district is in the neighborhood of 33,479,319 kilograms, representing a value of 334,793 piasters. Indigo grows wild almost everywhere; it is very little cultivated, the methods followed being quite primitive. The annual crop is 18,200 kilos, valued at 30,110 piasters.

A large part of the cacao credited to Sabusco comes from Chiapas. The Department of Pichucalco produces it in abundance, and it could be easily cultivated throughout the warm zone on the Atlantic slope. The annual production is 144,491 kilos, valued at 147,497 piasters. A large quantity of coffee of recognized superiority comes from Chiapas. Some years ago plantations were started by Germans and Americans in the departments of Soconusco, on the Pacific, and Chilon, on the Atlantic; the results could not have been better. The annual production is estimated at 2,467,209 kilos, valued at 1,460,535 piasters. Tobacco is cultivated, especially in the Department of Simojovel, and while inferior in quality to that of Huimanguillo the crop is much larger, the average production being 540,093 kilos annually, with a valuation of 135,495 piasters.

Vanilla is not cultivated but is found in all the forests. There is no question that the cultivation of this article would be attended with excellent results. Rubber is found in all the forests and notably in the Departments of Soconusco, Palenque, Pichucalco, and Chilon. Some years ago, regular plantations were started in Soconusco and Pichu-

calco. The cost of a plantation is relatively small compared with the enormous profits after eight years, at which time the first tapping is made. A single tapping repays all the expenses of cultivation and leaves a handsome profit. The Americans understand the enormous advantages of extensive plantations, and within a very short time Chiapas will possess them. The annual production is at present 100,000 kilos, with an approximate value of 100,000 piasters.

Only two industries worthy of serious consideration flourish in this State; the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, and the exploitation of the valuable woods such as mahogany, cedar, ebony, rosewood, redwood, lignum-vitæ, ironwood, fustic logwood, and others equally valuable with which all the forests, especially those of the Chilon districts abound. The production of white sugar is about 1,999,066 kilos annually, valued at 418,680 piasters, and brown sugar, valued at 354,289 piasters, reaches 3,612,918 kilos. In by-products from sugar plantations, syrup is represented by 5,627,143 kilos, with a value of 563,833 piasters, and tafia by 104,102 hectoliters, valued at 2,091,340 piasters. Large tracts of the mahogany and cedar forests in Tabasco are almost exhausted, and interested parties are seeking a better investment for their capital in the Chilon district, the Government aiding them by granting large concessions of 10,000 to 125,000 hectares for periods varying from ten to twenty years. By paying the insignificant tax of 1.50 pesos per tree, each of which produces from 2 to 15 tons, the concessionnaire has the exclusive privilege of exploiting these forests during the time given.

Until now the shores of the Usumacinta, Salinas, Lacantum, and their branches have been exploited in a very incomplete manner; the trees were marked with a hatchet, each proprietor having his own mark or sign, which constituted his claim to the property until it was hauled away to the nearest water course. The current carries the wood only as far as the village of Senocique, where each owner claims his property according to the mark and it is made into large rafts and floated down the river Usumacinta to Nontera or Carmen, whence it is shipped to New York or to Europe. Little or none of these woods are sent to France, all the European stock being sent to England or Germany, and French merchants are obliged to make their purchases at London, Liverpool, Bremen, or Hamburg. This industry is by far the most important of the State, as exports of cedar are calculated at 10,000 tons annually, with a valuation of 600,000 piasters, and mahogany at 15,000 tons, valued at 1,350,000 piasters, and the quantity may be greatly increased.

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

On August 14, 1899, the Foreign Office of Great Britain issued as No. 514 of the "Miscellaneous Series" of its Diplomatic and Consular Reports the observations of the British Consul at Vera Cruz with respect to the tobacco industry in Mexico. This report is dated July

21, 1899, but the statistics given end with the fiscal year 1898. The Consul states that until the year 1897–98 the exports of Mexican tobacco showed but little advancement when there was an increase of more than 100 per cent both in the amount and value of the product of raw leaf tobacco shipped abroad. However, there was a diminution in the quantity of the manufactured product exported as well as a decrease in its value. In 1896–97 the exports of unmanufactured leaf was 1,349,903 kilograms, valued at $1,718,232 (Mexican currency), and 420,282 kilograms of manufactured tobacco, valued at $1,001,859. These amounts had increased in the fiscal year 1898, as far as the leaf was concerned, to 3,107,619 kilograms, valued at $3,563,620; the quantity of manufactured tobacco taken by foreigners was 389,697 kilograms, valued at $926,148. The earliest statistics obtained by the Consul were for the fiscal year 1890, when the exports of leaf tobacco were 627,800 kilos, worth $349,163, and 386,945 kilos of manufactured tobacco, valued at $599,169.

The two principal centers of production are said to be San Andres Tuxtla and Valle Nacional. The product of the former is of good quality and sells for fair prices, while that of the latter is light in weight and color and often brings fancy figures, as it makes excellent wrappers for cigars. But, at its best, tobacco is a precarious crop, depending much on the weather conditions, and losses from climatic conditions are frequent. It is planted in Mexico from September to the latter part of October, and is cut for curing in January and February. Manufacturers are mostly growers themselves, and they, together with other purchasers, make advances to cultivators. Thus the exports for one year consist of crops on which advances were made the year previous.

Labor at all times is scarce and generally of an inferior class, but the influx of Spaniards from Cuba during the war on that island raised the hopes of the planters. Since the termination of that struggle most of these persons have returned to Cuba. The industry requires skilled and unskilled laborers who can be depended upon, and such persons can not be found in sufficient numbers. The Consul says the laborers on tobacco plantations are now mostly obtained through the authorities, who requisition the hands from the Indian villages, and this entails advances, traveling expenses, and losses through desertion. Nominally wages are low, but taking into consideration the inferior quality of the labor, the results obtained, and the constant supervision required to prevent desertion, the laborers are not inexpensive or satisfactory. The requisitioned laborers are forced to work under penalty of imprisonment, and in many instances are confined under lock and key to prevent desertion. Their principal food is beans and "tortillas" (unleavened maize cakes). In Valle Nacional the hands are nearly all "forced laborers," being convicts, vagabonds, and petty offenders obtained from the City of Mexico and near-by districts, and scarcely give good results.

In 1898 the exports of the tobacco of the country received an impetus because of the Cuban revolution. At the same time certain grades of Mexican tobacco were imported by the dealers and manufacturers in Tampa, Key West, and other parts of Florida to be used for fillers and wrappers. This was attributed to an attempt to forestall the effects of the new United States tariff rates; but it caused a temporary boom in Mexico. Prices rose, exports increased, and the resources of capital and labor were strained in the efforts to increase the crops. With the change in tariff rates, the freeing of the Cuban stored supply, and the resumption of tobacco growing on that island, prices declined, and it was found that Mexican tobacco could not retain the temporary footing that it had acquired in the markets of the United States. With the fall of prices many people were ruined who had indiscreetly engaged in increased cultivation. Growers were unable to reimburse advances, and purchasers were left with large supplies on hand. Since then the production is believed to have declined to about its normal condition, but the official figures for the fiscal year 1899 have not yet been made public.

The Consul observes that when the necessary supply of reliable labor shall have been found, and the means for the improvements in the cultivation and preparation of the product introduced, there will be an opportunity for the investment of large capital in the business, for good tobacco is grown in Mexico, and there is no reason why, with proper handling, it should not obtain an advantageous footing on the markets. Mexican cigars should command a better market than they do, but as yet they do not seem to have taken the public fancy. There is considerable consumption of tobacco in the country, and the home trade is important and protected by heavy duties on importations.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The value of the exports from Mexico to the United States during the months of July and August at Nogales, Ariz., as reported to the Bureau of American Republics by the Mexican Consul, was: For July, $232,134; for August, $281,600. The imports into Mexico of foreign merchandise through the same custom-house were valued at: For July, $119,038; for August, $136,678. The United States furnished in the month of July $71,006, and in that of August $87,129, of the total value of the imports. The custom-house collected in duties during the month of July $84,008.44, and in August $89,423.57.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Mobile, Ala., reports that the exports from the said port to Mexico for the month of September, 1899, were valued at $21,459.

From Pascagoula, Miss., the Mexican Vice-Consul gives the trade movement as follows:

Exports to Vera Cruz, 271,100 superficial feet of pitch pine lumber, valued at $2,711; to Coatzacoalcos, 279,450 superficial feet of pitch pine lumber, valued at $2,794.50, making a total of $5,505.50.

Imports: Coatzacoalcos, 287 logs of cedar and mahogany, valued at $1,040.

The exports from the port of San Francisco to Mexico during the month of August, 1899, as reported by the Consul-General of Mexico, were valued at $527,711, of which $76,904 represented American merchandise, $3,211 foreign merchandise, and $447,596 Mexican dollars. The imports of Mexican goods were valued at $272,873, of which $43,231 represented merchandise and $229,642 represented coins and gold and silver bullion.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, Cal., reports that the exports from the port named to Mexico during the month of August last were 5,369 packages, valued at $13,184.

The Mexican Consulate-General at New York gives the imports from Mexico during the month of August as follows: Henequen, 3,101 bales; coffee, 4,005 bags; hides, 2,267 bundles; hides, loose, 3,925; ixtle fiber, 2,328 packages; goatskins, 309 bales; deerskins, 396 bales; rubber, 116 bales; tobacco, leaf, 1,294 bales; cigars, boxes, 124; sugar, 2 bags; broom root, 1,806 bales; chicle gum, 2,104 bales; dyewoods, 2,775 logs; hair, 26 bales; lead bars, 108,440; metals, 190 boxes; ore, 30,363 packages; sarsaparilla, 331 bales; vanilla, 47 boxes; alligator skins, 235; herron plumes, 3 boxes; bones, 1,487 packages; honey, 107 barrels; cedar, 2,507 logs; mahogany, 1,764 logs; jalap, 1 bag; copper, 6,904 bars.

During the said month 13 steamships, bringing 177,357 packages, were entered at the consulate, and 14 steamships, carrying 128,300 packages, were cleared.

IMPORTATION OF COAL AND COKE.

The importation of coal and coke into Mexico continues to increase, as indicated by the "Coal Trade Journal" for September 20, 1899. The amount for the year 1898 was about 598,000 tons, or an increase of 30 per cent over the imports for 1897. This is undoubtedly attributable to the number of new industrial enterprises within the Republic, where, owing to the scarcity of firewood, the factories are obliged to use coal and coke. On the railroads bricks of compressed coal are employed almost entirely instead of wood. The imports of coal are from the following countries: The United States, which sends over 50 per cent of the total amount; Great Britain, which sends 33 per cent, and Australia, Belgium, and Germany. The imports from the latter country are steadily increasing and are proving a serious competitor to the coals of Australia and Belgium. Australian coal is nearly all brought to the ports of the Pacific coast, whence it is sent in small quantities to the factories a short distance inland. The greater part, however, is used for replenishing vessels plying in the Pacific Ocean.

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

During the first half of the present year, the Minister of Fomento has alienated 188,180 hectares of public lands, valued at $174,988, or an

average price per hectare of 46 cents. These lands have been divided into 104 lots, situated in the Territory of Lower California and the States of Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Vera Cruz, Yucatan, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, and Tamaulipas.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINES.

The contract entered into by the Government of Mexico and the representative of the "Pacific Steam Navigation" and "Sud Americana de Vapores" companies, mentioned in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for July, has been published, and from it it is learned that the steamers of the said companies will make trips between Valparaiso, Chile, and Mazatlan, Mexico, touching monthly at the ports of San Benito, Tonala, and Puerto Angel, and fortnightly at Santa Cruz, Acapulco, Manzanillo, San Blas, and Mazatlan. In case the itinerary is extended to San Francisco, Cal., the steamers may touch at Guaymas and intermediate ports on the Gulf of California. In consideration of the services rendered by these steamers, the Government grants to the combined companies an annual subsidy of 20,000 pesos, which will be increased to 25,000 should a weekly service be furnished, and one-fourth more should the vessels extend their itinerary northward from Mazatlan to San Francisco, a reduction of 25 per cent of the tonnage dues and a reduction of 50 per cent of the sanitary dues. The service must be established before the 31st of December of next year, and the duration of the contract is to be three years.

ARTICLES OF MERCHANDISE IN DEMAND.

In answer to several inquiries, the BULLETIN gives the following as a partial list of articles of merchandise for which there is a demand in Mexico: Agricultural implements, artificial limbs and appliances, acids and oils, barbers' supplies, bricks, bacon and dry-salted pork, building lumber of all kinds, building paper, blinds, boilers and engines, butter, boots and shoes, bicycle supplies, canvas and cotton goods, cattle, concentrators, coal and coke, cheese, carriages, cars (tramway), clothing (ladies' ready-made especially), caps and hats, candies, canned goods, dried fruit, doors and screens, dental and surgical supplies, electrical machinery, fence and ornamental wire, fire brick, field and garden seeds, flour, gas pipe, glass (window), harness, horses, hams, ice houses and refrigerators, lime, liquors and wines, leather, mining tools and machinery, mine timbers, mantels, ore sacks, oils and varnishes, paper and paints, pianos, potatoes, pickles, preserves, photographic supplies, parasols and umbrellas, roofing felt, safes, stoves and ranges, sewer pipes, soaps (especially toilet soaps), telegraph and telephone poles, tiles, vinegar, wool.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

During the next few years Mexico will offer a splendid field for the introduction of labor-saving machinery. The reports from that coun-

try are to the effect that the labor market is being drawn on to its utmost extent. The idle man is the exception. The scarcity of native laborers in certain sections has acted as a hindrance to their development, and experiments have been made during this year in the way of importing laborers. The Mexican Central Railway has imported and now has at work on its Tampico docks and laboring divisions of this branch of its line, situated in the hot lands, about 1,000 Bahama negroes and Chinese. It is also said that there is a movement on foot to try coolie labor on plantation work.

The "Semana Mercantil," of Mexico, is authority for the statement that there has been founded in Switzerland a Franco-Mexican bank, the object of which is to furnish the necessary capital for all kinds of investments in the Republic. The capital of the bank, which is all subscribed, is 5,000,000 francs. The institution will have a representative in the Mexican capital, and will be equipped so as to furnish information and details regarding the great field for operations in a financial, commercial, and industrial way which the country now offers, and also provide the money that may be needed to carry out any undertakings.

According to "Le Courrier du Mexique," M. D'ARGENCE, a French resident of San Luis Potosí, who has been engaged in the culture of the vine for many years in that State, at the instance of several French viticultural societies, has decided to establish an enological station in the city of San Luis Potosí, where courses in the art of wine making may be followed and Mexican wine growers may profit by the experience of French enologists. The station will be open on January 1, of next year, and will be the first scientific and rational effort in Mexico to disseminate knowledge as to the cultivation of the vine and the making of wine.

Mr. EUGENE KELLY, a well-known resident of Mexico, and Prince RADZIWILL have lately been in the City of Mexico arranging the preliminaries for the establishment of a large iron foundry and rolling mill near Monterey. It is the purpose of the parties having the undertaking in hand to go into manufacturing on a large scale; they will turn out locomotives, rails, agricultural, and other machinery which has heretofore been imported. The raw material will have to come from abroad at first; but afterwards the ore deposits of the country will be drawn upon to furnish it.

American capital is being invested very largely in the development of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; lines of railroad and steamships are projected; one of the large American companies operating on the isthmus is about to plant 5,000 acres in bananas, and will establish a line of fruit steamers so as to insure against delays in shipment that might prove prejudicial owing to the perishable nature of the cargoes. Another American company is now planting a large acreage in pineapples and purposes erecting a canning establishment.

The large number of American farmers who have moved across the border into Mexico and the still larger number who are desirous of

locating there, attracted by the warmer climate, are revolutionizing and will continue to revolutionize the farming methods of the country. This fact will make an opening for American implements and tools, which is already evidenced by the increasing amount of agricultural machinery and implements which is going from the United States.

Mr. THOMAS BRANIFF, Jr., of the City of Mexico, has petitioned the Department of Promotion for permission to establish an aluminum factory. The capital which will be employed in the undertaking will be about $1,000,000. Electrical energy derived from water power in the State of Vera Cruz will be utilized. This venture is an entirely new industry in the Republic, and is being looked forward to with great interest.

A press notice says that heretofore the production of raw sugar in Mexico has been confined to small factories, but that during the Spanish-American war, owing to the conditions in Cuba, United States capitalists started larger establishments on the plan of those in Cuba, and that now efforts are being made to induce German capital to take an interest in this branch of industry in the neighboring Republic.

The finances of the City of Mexico are on a solid basis, the receipts amounting to more than $400,000 per month, while the expenditures are only $360,000. The city lighting service comprises 481 electric street lights of 2,000 candlepower, 366 of 1,200 candlepower, and about 150 incandescent lights of 50 and 16 candlepower. The cost of the service is about $24,000 per month.

A German representative of a large syndicate has recently been visiting several localities in the Republic with a view to establishing Teutonic colonies in Mexico. He had several interviews with the Minister of Promotion, and there seems to be little doubt that a colonization contract will be the outcome of these.

A number of capitalists of the city of Puebla have joined forces to found a factory for bleaching and printing woolen goods in that city. It is reported, though somewhat doubtful, that the capital to be invested in the venture is 6,000,000 pesos, and that 4,000,000 of this amount have already been subscribed.

A new corporation to operate in the Dos Ríos District of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, to be known as the "Dos Ríos Planters' Association," is about to be organized. It will have a paid capital of $450,000 gold, and expects before the end of the year 1900 to have 3,000,000 coffee trees and 500,000 rubber trees set out.

The "Two Republics" of Mexico in its issue of August 25, 1899, says that a large number of families of German and Hungarian extraction recently left Buenos Ayres with the intention of founding a colony in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

A new railroad, which is to run from some point on the Fort Worth and Denver, via Abilene, to Eagle Pass, is proposed. It will be known as the Colorado, Texas and Mexico Railroad, and will have a length of 200 miles.

Mr. F. P. HOECK, of the City of Mexico, is about to publish a new English translation of the Mexican tariff law, including all the amendments and additions to date.

St. Louis capitalists are about to build in Guanajuato a cyanide mill of a daily capacity of 50 tons. The process to be employed is the "pneumatic cyanide."

The new vitrified sewer-pipe factory in the City of Mexico is reported to have sufficient orders on hand to keep the plant constantly employed for five years.

The exports of copper from Mexico during the first quarter of this year have increased 33⅓ per cent over those for the same period of 1898.

The United States Patent Office, on September 26, 1899, issued a patent for a button to Señor Don FRANCISCO CLARK, of Durango, Mexico.

Concessions have been granted to citizens of the United States for a tannery, a hat and a furniture factory in Chihuahua.

The Guadalajara, Jalisco, street railway is soon to be equipped with electric power.

California parties have purchased the Cuchilla gold mine near Altar, Sonora, for $30,000.

An English syndicate is reported to have purchased the "Socavón" mine in the State of Durango for 4,000,000 pesos.

A bicycle factory is soon to be established in the City of Mexico with a capital of $500,000, Mexican money.

NICARAGUA.

TRADE AND COMMERCE IN 1898.

According to the report of Mr. CHAMBERS, the resident British Consul, to the "Foreign Office" of his Government, dated July 20, 1899, trade in Nicaragua during the year 1898 was not at all good, but compared with the previous year there was an improvement. The total imports for the year, including produce brought from other Central American countries, amounted to £573,236 ($2,789,366). Compared with 1897 this was an increase of £44,852 ($218,250), or about 8½ per cent, but compared with the returns for 1895 and 1896 it shows a large decrease. Great Britain was the largest contributor, with £238,950, or about 41½ per cent of the total. This was an increase over 1897 of £34,350. As in previous years, the United States was second, with a total of £139,900 ($680,753), or about 24½ per cent, showing a gain of £39,580 ($192,596) for the year. Germany was third, with £102,000, or nearly 18 per cent, having increased £7,036. The amount received from France was £46,000, against £55,000 for the previous year. Other European countries were credited with £40,000, against £58,500 in 1897. The importations from Central America amounted to £6,386.

From the Consul's observations the following information is gleaned: The increase of 3 per cent in British imports is due mainly to the large amount of cheap cotton goods sent into the country. For cheap dress goods, muslins, prints, white shirtings, lawns, zephyrs, sewing thread, etc., there is no competition of consequence with Great Britain, but in heavier goods, such as ducks, drills, sheetings, grays, etc., the United States can produce an article as good and as cheap, though not always as advantageous to the importing merchant, on account of the awkward widths and set assortment of patterns, which United States firms say they can not alter, while Manchester manufacturers will suit anybody's taste. Thus cottons from the United States are very little known in the interior of the country, but the few imported are much liked in finish and style. Such articles as beer, sewing machines, boilers, nails, iron, wire fencing, and machinery are rarely ever imported from anywhere but the United States and Germany, and it would appear that the principal reason for doing so is cheapness. Beer from the United States is becoming liked, and the consumption is increasing. Barbed wire from the United States is preferred to the English, the former being more pliable and less liable to break. In price the two are about the same. There has been a slight increase of cotton goods from the United States, but the greater part of the gain of that country is due to larger quantities of provisions and such articles as petroleum, wire, lamps, sewing machines, beer, rope, drugs, hardware, etc. Wine from California seems to have fallen off somewhat, and flour from the Eastern States is losing ground in favor of the California flour shipped in gunny bags of 150 pounds each.

The total exports from Nicaragua in 1898 amounted to £636,710 ($3,098,231), an increase of £25,177 ($122,511). Of this total £195,500 went to Great Britain, an increase of £45,450. To Germany the amount was £175,000, or a decrease in a year of £105,150, due to the great decrease in both the quantity and price of coffee. To the United States the amount was £172,000 ($836,952), an increase of £65,900 ($320,669). To France the amount was £22,500, against £20,000; to other European countries, £28,710, against £10,576; to Central America, £43,000, against £44,657.

Coffee, which is the principal article of export, shows a diminution in quantity of 34,000 bags and in value of £135,000. The total number of bags shipped was 120,000, of which Germany took 70 per cent, Great Britain 20 per cent, with the remainder divided between France, Italy, and the United States. Coffee is now as low as it is likely to go, and a favorable change in the price will at once produce a marked revival in the trade of the country. During the last three years there have been many failures among the merchants of Nicaragua and also among the coffee producers, partly from reckless speculation in coffee. The Germans have suffered most. At the present time about one-third of the coffee estates are bought, mortgaged, or worked by Germans, and

in other lines of business it is to be noted that there are from two to three German houses to one of other foreign nationality. The coffee from the Matagalpa district brings a much better price than the other coffee of the country, and, notwithstanding the fact that the producers are compelled to transport it by means of bullock carts to Leon, a three days' journey, the planters in this section continue to make a good profit. A railway from the city of Leon to Matagalpa is one of the great needs of the producers and the country.

The quantities of rubber, hides, deerskins, logwood, cedar, mahogany, dyewood extracts, cattle, sugar, and gold shipped increased as compared with the previous year, while the exports of silver dollars, indigo, leather, cheese, Indian corn, lard, etc., show a slight decline. The United States received larger quantities of rubber, hides and skins, mahogany, etc., than any other country. Silver dollars are sent to the United States chiefly, although small quantities are taken by European countries as well as by some Central American States. Practically all the cattle are sent to Costa Rica, being driven overland. The indigo is sent to England and France. The sugar is sometimes sent to San Francisco, but mainly to Costa Rica, Honduras, Salvador, and Guatemala. Salvador and Guatemala take the greater part of the salt, leather, maize, soap, lard, boots, starch, hammocks, etc. The increased exports to Great Britain were in gold bars and ore, logwood, dyewoods, and cedar. Large quantities of cedar and mahogany are sent to Boston from Bluefields by a firm which has a concession from the Government. About 14,000 logs of different kinds of wood were exported during the year, besides some 400,000 pounds of rubber, 2,000,000 bunches of bananas, 500,000 cocoanuts, and about 5,000 ounces of gold. An export duty of 3 cents currency is charged on each bunch of bananas, 12 cents gold per kilogram on rubber, and $17 gold on every kilogram of fine gold shipped.

About 15 per cent of the imports and exports of the country are through the ports of Greytown, and the Atlas Company's steamers from New York touch there once in every 14 days. Most of the trade of the interior is through the Pacific ports of Corinto and San Juan del Sur. Corinto Harbor is considered a very good one, accommodating a large number of good-sized vessels. Most of the vessels that entered the port in 1898 were American, belonging to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which receives a subsidy of $9,000 per year from the Nicaraguan Government. Importations and exportations by way of San Juan del Sur have decreased considerably and in 1898 barely 10 per cent of the traffic of the country was through this port.

The financial state of the country for the year 1898 was not bright, but "hopes of prosperity have been centered on the American canal scheme, which, if ever realized, will be a fine thing for this country, as everything at present drags along slowly for lack of capital and immigration. The fluctuating paper currency issued by the Government in

no way tends to improve matters, and in order to protect themselves against an unexpected rise in exchange, merchants are obliged to leave a good margin when liquidating goods, and necessarily the consumer pays a high price for everything. Credits with small shopkeepers are greatly restricted, but not so much so as in 1897, and, on the whole, there is more confidence of peace; exchange, although high, is practicably always obtainable, owing to the quantity of produce exported."

VALUABLE PREHISTORIC REMAINS.

Members of a scientific commission sent out a few months ago by the Danish Government to make archæological studies in Central America were recently in the United States en route to their European homes. The leaders of the party were Dr. JOHANNES NEUHAUS and Professor HALFAU BORRING, both of Copenhagen. These scientists were so enthusiastic over their discoveries—having 20 tons of specimens with them—that they will ask to be allowed to return to Nicaragua to continue their investigations, that country being peculiarly rich in prehistoric remains.

Dr. NEUHAUS said that foremost among their finds was one establishing a relationship between the civilization of Nicaragua and that of Peru. Years ago ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT discovered and described a peculiar kind of cement used by the masons of the Peruvian Incas, and believed to be found in no other part of the world. Dr. NEUHAUS found samples of the same substance along the Rama River in Nicaragua. The party visited the various ruins near the coast and along this river, examined several of the old mines from which the fabulous wealth of the Toltecs was derived, and lastly discovered refuse mounds, or kitchen middens, remarkably rich in relics.

The middens of northern Europe have proved one of the most valuable fields for ethnological study, and it is especially to delve further into these everyday refuse heaps of the old American civilization that the Danish scientists are believed to be so anxious to return. Objects therein are naturally most of them broken, but they are generally those worn-out by use, and which show the mode of life of the early Indian civilization. No metal implements were found, but the stone hatchets and other tools were as admirably made as were the bronze tools of the Aztecs. The kitchen middens were found at Kukra Point, near Bluefields.

PARAGUAY.

MARKET FOR COTTON TEXTILES.

According to the statement of Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul, the largest imports of any one class of goods into Paraguay are of cotton textiles, $186,325.02 worth being imported in 1898, of

which prints were valued at $78,169.50, gold. The duties on cotton prints or "percales," as the Spanish call them, is 20 per cent per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), which is always the unit of measurement, and a kilogram of such goods is valued at 90 cents. The apparel of the poorer people is almost entirely made of cotton cloth, most of the goods coming from Great Britain and Germany. The lack of banking facilities, as has frequently been noted, is one of the chief obstacles to trade with the United States.

As is well known, the seasons in Paraguay are the reverse of those in the United States, the months of December, January, and February being the hot months south of the equator, as they are the cold months to the north of it. For that reason, the style of cotton prints prevalent in the United States in July could be introduced into Paraguay the following December, thus disposing of the surplus products with profit. The Consul says the colors of the goods depend upon the politics of the country to a considerable extent. There are two great political parties—the "Colorados" or Liberals and the "Azules." Where the former predominate, the people prefer red; where the latter are the more numerous, blue is the prevailing color. The red or the blue, as the case may be, must be of a bright, fast color and serve as a basis of the scheme of color. In addition, there is a third color, which, it would appear, is worn indiscriminately by both political parties. This is a coffee color, varying from light to dark. The red ranges from rose up to a tint of the most pronounced character; the blue from "sky blue" to the deepest indigo. The red appears to be the most salable. Dark colors, which intensify the effects of the tropical sun, are not much worn except as mourning garments. Large and small figured prints, as well as checks, dots, etc., find sale. The prints can vary from widths of 24 inches to those of 26 inches; the lengths may be 24 yards (21.95 meters), and it is important to specify both measurements. Merchants say that the goods of short lengths sell the most quickly; a 20-yard (18.29 meters) piece would be welcomed, but they might be sent in 50-yard (45.72 meter) pieces, so as to permit halving. The most salable cotton prints have 64 by 56 and 64 by 64 threads to the square inch.

The merchants purchase by the meter (39.37 inches) and sell by the "vara" (33.858 inches). Thus, if a Paraguayan retailer buys a meter of cloth for 80 cents paper (10 cents gold) and sells it at $1 per vara, he not only gains 20 cents, but has 5.512 inches, or almost one-sixth of a vara, remaining from the original meter. Few wholesale merchants buy direct from Europe. They prefer to go to Montevideo or Buenos Ayres once in six months, or depend on their agents in those cities to keep them supplied. The fluctuations of the money of the country makes trade with Europe risky. The retail merchants buy in Asunción. The credit system extends all over South America. The time allowed is usually six months from date of invoice. Sometimes eight and nine months are granted f. o. b. river boat in Montevideo for Asun-

ción, four months' interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum being charged.

An exporter in the United States, in correspondence, should, according to the consul's instructions, quote prices c. i. f. Buenos Ayres or Montevideo, including packing; no documents. Goods are sold in bond in gold at six months from date of invoice, a draft being signed. The freight from New York to the cities named is 28 cents gold per cubic foot.

Mr. RUFFIN thinks Paraguay is a field worthy of the attention of the exporting merchants of the United States, and that there is no better printed cloth made than that of American manufacture. Few bankruptcies are reported in Paraguay, and the business firms pay well. The "Banco Mercantil" (Mercantile Bank) is said to do a limited business with a New York firm. It is suggested that, to open trade, a firm in the United States might enter into partnership with one of the old established firms in Asunción. The names of the following business houses are given in the consul's report: ANGULO Y CÍA., BRUN Y CÍA., BRAGA Y CÍA., GAONA Y URRUTIA, GOMEZ Y CÍA., and NARDI, YSASI Y CÍA., of Asunción; QUEVADO Y CÍA., of Concepción, and SANTOS Y MOLINO, of Villa del Pilar. Mr. ALBERT G. JONES, a citizen by birth of the United States, who resides at Villa del Pilar and is a large exporter of oranges, is reported as willing to give information to merchants who may write to him.

COMMERCIAL STATUS OF THE COUNTRY.

In a recent issue of the "Börsen Halle," of Hamburg, it was stated that upon the occasion of the departure of Mr. CARLOS R. SANTOS for the United States, where he was sent as a delegate from the Chambers of Commerce of Paraguay to the Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, the president of the former association, Mr. PLATE, delivered an address with reference to the importance of his mission. As a delegate, he was particularly requested to bring to the attention of all parties the real business situation in Paraguay, there being no other country in the world, perhaps, about which such extreme views had been disseminated. It had either been presented as a wilderness or, on the other hand, as a perfect paradise, where one could soon amass wealth without working. Both extremes are erroneous, and Mr. PLATE hoped that the delegate would not fail to put the country right in the eyes of the commercial world assembled at Philadelphia. To do this it would be necessary only to state that Paraguay possesses untrammeled and easy communication with the outside world by broad and navigable rivers and maintains direct mercantile relations with Europe, which are constantly growing, both with regard to exports and imports.

There is no European or American ware that is not received in Paraguay, and no news item of importance in the world but what is published and discussed by her citizens. The commerce of Paraguay

is on as sound a basis as that of any other country, and, even if poorer than many, it is just as trustworthy and honorable as any nation. This is proven by the relatively small number of failures in proportion to the amount of business done. The national prosperity is steadily, if slowly, advancing. The producers are small in number, and consequently large capital at present can not find opportunity for investment. Only for the construction of a system of railways to reach the Paraguayan tea (maté) and tropical wood forests would a large outlay of capital be advisable. With the exception of a few more abattoirs and canning factories, small capitalists only will best succeed in the Republic. Small industries and small farmers can do well, since the situation is most favorable to them. There should be no talk of extensive undertakings in Paraguay, as the inducements for such must naturally be in proportion to the labor supply and the ability of the people to consume their products.

THE COLLECTION OF DEBTS.

In communicating with the Department of State at Washington, under date of June 20, 1899, the United States Consul at Asunción, Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, says that for some time he has been studying means by which the merchants of the United States can safely conduct trade in Paraguay and at the same time collect their debts. He observes that the main hindrance to the collection of foreign debts is the difficulty experienced in securing gold with which to purchase foreign drafts. This is especially the case in paying debts due to United States firms. The importers and merchants of Paraguay have sufficient means and money, but the money of the Republic is based upon paper, while foreign firms must be paid in gold. When a merchant desires to liquidate a debt due in the United States, he has to pay an exorbitant price for gold, as all the gold in Paraguay is in the hands of a few persons.

As an illustration of the anxiety of the merchants of Asunción to secure an enlarged foreign trade and of the desire of the leading men of the Republic to relieve the gold stringency, the Consul states that one of the foremost merchants stands ready to mortgage the principal building in Asunción for three or four years and pay 6 per cent interest to any capitalists who will place in any reliable bank in the United States $60,000 subject to his order, on which he can issue drafts to Paraguayan importers who desire to pay their debts in Europe or in the United States. The building, together with the grounds on which it is erected, cost $100,000.

With reference to the collection of debts in Paraguay by legal process, Mr. RUFFIN presents the following points, adding that the legal fraternity of Asunción "is able and learned, and any business confided to their hands will be attended to promptly":

(1) There is no statute of limitation.

(2) The first step in the recovery of a debt is to bring the matter

before a justice of the peace, if the debt be small; if it be over $500, it must go before the civil court of first instance. Debts are always recoverable before one of these tribunals, according to their nature and character.

(3) The defendant's goods can be seized under execution by means of an embargo laid upon the goods by order of the judge.

(4) No cases of debts are tried before a jury.

(5) Lawyers and attorneys arrange with their clients as to charges or commissions, generally observing the laws of contract. In case there be no agreement between lawyer and client, or the agreement is contrary to the law and can not be fulfilled, the account may be presented to the judge; but it must not exceed 25 per cent of the total value of the matter in litigation. If those who have to pay an account do not accept it, the judge may order a reappraisement. Any decision given by the judge is subject to appeal.

(6) The debtor can be compelled to pay the costs of collecting debts.

(7) A joint-stock company with a legal personality, or, in other words, a company recognized by the Government and registered in the book kept in the court of commerce, has a right to sue in the name of the company.

(8) All legal documents to be used in Paraguay must be attested before the Paraguayan Consul in the United States, and in default of this, before a Consul of any other nation.

(9) Where money is known to be due, it can be attached in satisfaction of the debt. A garnishee order can be made against the person owing the money, by applying to the respective courts.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Dr. BORELLI, Director of the Zoological Museum at Turin, Italy, is reported to have recently arrived at Asunción for the purpose of making an investigation of the fauna peculiar to Paraguay. His scientific research will be confined principally to the ornithology of the country.

During the fiscal year 1899 there were 405 immigrants to Paraguay. Of these 239 were from Sicily. The rest were of various nationalities, including one family from the United States.

The Paraguayan Government has decreed that the metric system, which had previously been provided for by law, should go into effect on January 1, 1901.

PERU.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The manufacturing industries of Peru should occupy a more prominent position in the economic life of the country than is at present assigned to them in statistical reports. Many factories, constituting

an important vital element, have been developed, of which the following are deserving of note: Shoe factories, the Gagliardi establishment, employing a number of machines and about 100 workmen, being the most important; cravat manufactories, and foundries, the latter constituting a branch of industrial life of the highest importance, the principal ones being the "Piedra Liza," with 70 workmen, the "Schofield," and the "Ashford." Almost all these foundries are under English direction. There are also biscuit factories, the oldest being that of FIELD & Co., as well as several tanneries. Only one of these latter establishments is of special importance, which, under the management of A. LABROUSSE & Co., turns out waxed calfskins of very good quality.

In Lima there are several furniture factories, the two principal ones being the MALHERBE COMPANY and the HECHKOPPLER COMPANY, each employing about 50 workmen. The wood used is, for the greater part, American cedar, but a limited amount of walnut from Europe and the United States is also manufactured. Veneer woods come principally from Europe. The flour mills of Lima belong either to Italians or Spaniards, and the wheat used is provided principally by Chile, the flour being destined for home consumption, though a small part is exported to Guayaquil. The preparation of alimentary pastes has taken on a certain activity, owing to the existence in the country of an Italian colony which is a large consumer of this class of food. There is no factory for pharmaceutical products in Peru, but several druggists in Lima make a specialty of preparing certain lines of these goods. Soap factories have been established in Lima, as well as a limited number of sawmills and wood yards. Some of the wood, such as pine, cedar, etc., is supplied from Norway and the United States.

The tobacco industry has the lead in Lima. In the various factories of the capital more than three thousand workmen are employed in making cigars, and still a greater number in the manufacture of cigarettes. The same city also supports nine tanneries, two of which are under French management, and cotton and woolen mills. The most important woolen mill is that of Santa Catalina, founded with Peruvian capital and directed by Italians.

Several factories of lesser importance for the manufacture of brooms, chocolate, billiard supplies, oils, pianos, salt, matches, etc., may also be noted.

NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

Señor Don EDUARDO LÓPEZ DE ROMAÑA, the newly elected President of Peru, took the oath of office on the afternoon of September 8, last, at Lima. His Cabinet is composed as follows:

President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Relations, Dr. MANUEL MARÍA GALVEZ.

Minister of Government and Police, Col. DOMINGO J. PARRA.

Minister of Justice, Worship, and Instruction, Dr. ELIODORO ROMERO.

Minister of War and Marine, Capt. CAMILO M. CARRILLO, Peruvian Navy.

Minister of Finance and Commerce, Dr. MARIANO A. BELAUDE.

Minister of Public Works, Señor CARLOS BASADRE Y FORERO.

The Premier, Dr. GALVEZ, is a lawyer of ability and Attorney-General in the Supreme Court. During the administration of Dr. GARCÍA CALDERÓN he was Minister for Foreign Relations. Colonel PARRA, of the Army, was prefect of Callao and at one time Minister of War in the first Cabinet of President PIÉROLA. Dr. ROMERO is a lawyer of ability in Lima and has held several responsible and prominent positions. Captain CARRILLO, of the Navy, was formerly Postmaster-General and has held the portfolio of finance. In 1868 he was appointed on a commission to bring two monitors from the United States. Dr. BELAUDE is a lawyer and merchant of a distinguished family of Arequipa; he has held several important positions in his native city and is a descendant of the famous JUAN DE LA TORRE, one of the thirteen companions of FRANCISCO PIAZARRO on the Island of Gallo. Señor BASADRE is an intelligent young civil engineer who at one time was a Senator for the Department of Tacna.

The President's speech to the Congress of Peru after taking the oath of office was short and confined principally to setting forth his programme for the future. The keynote of it is to be found in the following paragraph: "On my part, obedient to the call of my country, I come to perform my duty. Without untoward ambition, without hates, and without entangling obligations, I bring to the office a staunch and sincere will, which I shall untiringly place at its service."

THE PRODUCTION OF COPPER.

The stoppage of the free coinage of silver two years ago was depressive to the silver-mining industry, and a number of mines are closed down. In 1898, for the first time in the history of the Cerro de Pasco mine, which had been worked solely for silver, as an experiment some copper ores were shipped to England when the price for pure copper was £52 per ton. The sales proved so satisfactory that a number of men were employed, and before the end of the year from 50 to 60 miners were engaged in the exportation of copper ores. At present the output is about 3,000 tons per month, two-thirds of which is being piled up at Cerro de Pasco for want of means of transportation, as barely 1,000 tons per month find their way to the railway terminus at Oroya, and on these the average charge is about £8 per ton. From Oroya these ores are carried to Callao by rail to the coast for £1 10s. per ton, and are finally shipped to Liverpool or Swansea with the freight and general charge on them of about £3 per ton. All ores now being worked are of the richest grade, ranging from 35 per cent to upward of 40 per cent, obtaining in Liverpool an average price of £25 per ton. The construction of the railway from Oroya to Cerro de Pasco

will develop the copper industry to a great extent, reducing the present expenses of £14 on each ton of ore sent to Liverpool to £7, or perhaps less.

It is estimated that the quantity of ore which may be said to be in sight is from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 tons. This would seem to be corroborated by the low cost of production, which, notwithstanding the primitive methods of working, does not exceed from 6 to 8 English shillings per ton.

ADVICE TO EXPORTERS.

The "Revue du Commerce Extérieur" of September 2, 1899, contains an extract from the reports of the Belgian Consul at Lima, published in the "Recueil Consulaire Belge." The Consul gives to his countrymen desiring to develop their export trade with Peru the following advice, which may be profitable or, at all events, of interest to exporters in the United States:

"The condition of affairs and the means necessary to extend our commerce upon the Pacific have not changed, and, to judge from the limited number of traveling agents from our country who visit these shores, our purpose of abstention has remained almost equally unchanged. These trips, however, are profitable, as is demonstrated by the efforts made by merchants established in Lima to subject traveling men arriving in Peru to a tax of 500 sols, good for six months only. One may imagine the uneasiness, somewhat exaggerated, no doubt, with which large importers see these agents offering their wares to all retailers, great and small, and even to private individuals, in some cases.

"It is important, in this connection, to note the good reputation enjoyed in Peru by German agents, on account of their readiness to satisfy the least caprice of their customers. All hints given them on the subject of packing, the weight and merchandise, are scrupulously followed. Far from imitating the example of other traveling men who wish to force their wares on the purchaser in their own way, the Germans, on the contrary, are eager to satisfy the demands made upon them, according to the desire of each.

"Resident agents might replace traveling men, but it is sometimes difficult to find men with the special knowledge necessary for the sale of certain products. It is also necessary, when a choice has been made, to keep in constant communication with him and to give him precise instructions, so that he may not be exposed to unpleasant surprises."

The Consul adds that when a sale has been made one must not neglect to execute the order, giving as an excuse that the manufacture of the article chosen is no longer carried on, proposing at the same time another sort, which, as often as not, does not suit the taste of the buyer. Tardiness, mistakes, delays, and complaints are also to be avoided, and it is important that thoroughness and precision should govern all operations.

Another means which contributes to the distribution of goods in Peru, the Consul observes, is advertising, and although good wares adver-

tise themselves, it is, however, necessary that they should be known. Prices for advertisements are not high. The paper "El Comercio" charges 5 centavos per line an insertion. For lengthy announcements a reduction of 25 per cent is made, and a further reduction is made if the insertion is continued for several months. Other papers in Lima charge about the same as El Comercio.

EXPORTS OF COCA LEAVES AND CRUDE COCAINE.

According to a French consular report of recent date, the cocaine and coca leaves industry of Peru has largely increased of late years. The following are the exports, in kilos, from 1891 to 1897: Coca leaves, 1891, 128,543; 1892, 388,465; 1893, 390,955; 1894, 372,360; 1895 and 1896, none; 1897, 493,677. Crude cocaine: 1891, 3,216; 1892, 4,550; 1893, 2,357; 1894, 4,716; 1895 and 1896, none; 1897, 5,207. The greater part went to Hamburg and thence to France, but a movement is on foot to establish a line of steamers to ply between Peru and Havre, France, so that the trade between the two countries may be more direct.

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE.

On the afternoon of September 3, 1899, the corner stone of the new school of medicine was laid in the Botanical Garden of Lima. The ceremonies were very imposing, the President of the Republic, Members of his Cabinet, Senators and Deputies, the diplomatic corps, and a large concourse of distinguished residents of the city being present. The Director of Public Works, Señor T. TERRY, read an address rehearsing all the steps leading up to the erection by the Government of the new School of Medicine, which was determined upon by it on November 8, 1897. Señor Don SANTIAGO M. BASURCO, who won the first prize in the competition for plans for the new building, was awarded the contract for its erection, the estimates of cost being 203,297.10 soles. The corner stone was laid by the President of the Republic, Don NICOLÁS DE PIÉROLA, who used a silver trowel bearing an inscription showing that it was presented to the President by the men employed upon the building of the structure.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Experiments have recently been made in Lima looking to the improvement of the street paving of that city. Two thousand asphalt blocks, composed of 90 per cent crushed hard rock and 10 per cent Trinidad asphalt subjected to a pressure of 100 tons to a square inch, which were imported from the United States, were used in the first experiments, and it is reported that there is a likelihood of the city authorities determining upon the utilization of blocks of this composition in the paving of at least some of the streets of the capital.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Vitor Railroad it was resolved to present to the Government for approval the plans

made by Mr. SOUTHERS, the company's engineer, for a narrow-gauge railroad to run from Satillo station, the terminus of the Vitor Railroad, for 10 kilometers along the valley to the Huachipa Pass. It is the intention of the company to extend the road several kilometers each year until it reaches the Siguas Valley.

The material for the complete rebuilding of the important and costly Pacasmayo pier arrived recently from New York and the work of reconstruction and repair is now being carried on. The general representative of the Pacific Company and concessionary of the Hualgayoc Railroad, to which companies the pier belongs, is Dr. JOSÉ M. YRIGOYEN, who was Chargé d'Affaires of Peru in Washington in 1891 and 1892.

Several prominent citizens of Lima lately issued a prospectus regarding a new company to be formed for the purpose of furnishing the capital of Peru with first-class vehicles of the "Victoria" style, to be let by the month, day, or hour. The capital stock of the proposed company is to be 100,000 soles, divided into 10,000 shares of 10 soles each.

The Peruvian Congress on August 22, 1899, enacted a law changing the name of the town of Pillo, in the district of Chupaca, in the province of Hunacayo, to Pilcomayo, and on the 24th of August authorized the executive power to negotiate with the "Peruvian Corporation" for the extension of the railroad from Sicuani to Cuzco.

SALVADOR.

IMPORTATION OF SILVER COIN.

Under date of August 9, 1899, Mr. JOHN JENKINS, Consul for the United States at San Salvador, transmitted to the Department of State at Washington a translation of a recent governmental decree, promulgated on July 29, 1899, of which the following is a copy:

"ARTICLE 1. The introduction of all silver money, whether in pesos or in fractional coins, which contain less than 900 fine and are less than legal weight, is prohibited.

"ART. 2. The administrators of customs and revenues will cause this provision to be strictly enforced, confiscating all silver of alloy less than that stated.

"ART. 3. Governors and departmental officers are instructed to prevent the introduction of the money above referred to.

"ART. 4. A reward of 25 per cent will be given to persons denouncing the importation of money forbidden in virtue of this decree, and 10 per cent will be given to those in public employ who shall confiscate the same.

"ART. 5. The present decree will go into effect on the day of publication."

NEW MINING COMPANY.

On August 8, 1899, "Butters's Salvador Mining Company, Limited," was admitted to registry in London. Messrs. CLARKE & CO. are named as the promoters of the company, and the capital stock is fixed at £150,000, divided into £1 shares. The object is "to adopt and carry into effect an agreement expressed to be made between this company and G. BUTTERS and D. J. P. PULLINGER for the acquisition of certain mineral properties, mines, concessions, etc., in the Republic of Salvador, and to develop, deal with, and turn to account of the same in such manner as the company may deem expedient."

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of August, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eight months ending August, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for August, for example, are not published until sometime in October.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche*)—				
Mexico	----------	$430	$1,792	$11,995
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	$19,385	15,889	141,039	152,392
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao*):				
Central America	2,292	----------	6,812	809
Brazil	10,753	3,080	106,977	253,540
Other South America	109,339	206,120	890,604	1,201,880
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	236,424	123,071	3,852,820	4,941,805
Mexico	38,259	95,767	2,609,316	2,448,406
Brazil	2,458,830	2,150,937	22,730,349	25,057,234
Other South America	470,053	430,913	5,401,112	5,113,790

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	$451	$12,070	$129,225	$116,924
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequen; Henequen; Hennequen*)—				
Mexico	872,956	481,716	5,426,326	5,405,134
Philippine Islands	224,919	59,167	2,005,977	3,185,428
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	171,367	213,708	1,191,759	1,404,942
South America	29,803	106,643	369,580	741,075
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	2,035	2,298	3,730	10,923
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America	23,006	19,313	73,137	126,521
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	26,852	43,154	132,182	228,572
Mexico	119,105	150,999	1,223,493	1,427,076
South America	730,559	832,953	6,728,912	7,425,087
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	50,592	57,420	322,903	620,452
Mexico	8,988	16,392	38,125	129,769
Brazil	727,571	576,414	9,145,085	12,605,495
Other South America	92,126	102,822	479,253	661,572
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc. Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	217,061	240,829	1,130,966	1,438,596
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	2,156	498	202,512	161,862
Mexico	1,510	851	43,568	64,893
Cuba	154,214	1,436,247	9,897,752	16,497,951
Brazil	12,399	----------	2,362,565	681,865
Other South America	201,599	565,939	3,127,158	3,484,927
Hawaiian Islands	1,856,794	3,001,888	13,048,035	16,048,701
Philippine Islands	436,617	849,629	733,200	960,204
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	39,633	1,929	137,051	22,348
Cuba	25,502	349,574	1,676,922	4,375,139
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	650	52,875	111,320	216,848
Mexico	5,109	59,556	146,678	307,581
Cuba	----------	5,981	933	40,581
South America	1,235	1,000	35,241	10,921
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	3,616	5,890	534,348	470,166
Class 2 (combing)	9	----------	19,029	101
Class 3 (carpet)	38,246	7,604	758,984	365,110

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$28	$4,407	$1,964	$5,651
Mexico	15,353	34,083	98,741	206,334
Santo Domingo	38	28	304	744
Cuba	353	16,795	2,421	63,667
Porto Rico	----------	621	426	3,885
Argentina	150,630	480,486	370,006	1,267,364

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Agricultural implements—Continued.				
Brazil	$1,135	$1,862	$17,855	$24,618
Colombia	739	32	3,895	477
Other South America	73,601	29,699	187,856	167,243
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	1,175	----	2,165	165
Mexico	1,231	19,784	59,182	83,596
South America	----	----	5,137	2,380
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	30	2,390	4,598	65,225
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	500	----	8,895	1,758
Mexico	2,879	11,407	57,365	52,235
South America	----	360	1,850	2,480
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	90	25	5,945	3,210
South America	1,040	680	7,378	5,805
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	10,715	16,226	22,104	39,660
Mexico	2,564	7,575	55,248	47,847
Santo Domingo	592	----	854	7,298
Cuba	46	6,561	2,805	46,755
Porto Rico	10	618	365	13,941
Argentina	1,387	1,756	16,230	17,298
Brazil	2,292	1,868	32,454	24,223
Colombia	521	275	7,057	33,312
Other South America	4,421	5,301	32,739	46,407
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	1,409	3,458	43,760	26,584
Mexico	18	14,660	6,260	99,803
Santo Domingo	2	----	63	315
Cuba	28,588	29,072	227,291	319,489
Porto Rico	----	188	----	251
South America	2,828	3,035	12,760	20,043
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	77,707	56,951	856,325	612,499
Mexico	6,651	13,376	64,129	103,632
Santo Domingo	9,085	----	146,912	95,973
Cuba	133,566	211,679	824,576	1,385,675
Porto Rico	18,155	25,841	197,576	371,061
Brazil	270,785	145,184	1,980,987	1,841,489
Colombia	22,933	35,084	269,322	323,407
Other South America	104,973	210,922	1,022,236	1,124,846
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	2,848	----	25,932	13,944
South America	56	723	385,733	68,599
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	9,686	1,857	34,734	13,511
Mexico	40,307	85,907	161,550	593,709
Santo Domingo	213	----	10,671	11,414
Cuba	1,578	11,913	19,177	96,610
Porto Rico	----	2,511	1,429	8,246
Argentina	113,109	17,061	226,225	164,772
Brazil	1,042	37,380	529,304	141,981
Colombia	12,511	2,404	38,065	11,291
Other South America	2,590	3,542	65,197	29,197
Cycles and parts of (*Bicicles y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicycleties et leurs parties*):				
Central America	1,252	405	4,969	3,819
Mexico	3,317	2,967	45,216	32,707
Santo Domingo	21	----	598	298
Cuba	----	17,366	3,345	49,842
Porto Rico	24	636	1,230	2,234
Argentina	1,873	26,015	70,452	200,762

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Cycles and parts of—Continued.				
Brazil	$7,720	$3,899	$76,161	$23,397
Colombia	732	1,157	6,390	6,108
Other South America	3,457	7,348	32,376	41,893
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	151	579	4,082	1,887
Mexico	2,114	3,102	13,764	20,515
Argentina	3,205	3,158	22,966	20,796
Brazil	7,686	4,934	27,071	36,539
Other South America	7,506	3,323	58,741	48,550
Coal (*Carbón; Carvão; Charbon*):				
Central America	1,671	2,751	6,660	11,953
Mexico	84,725	136,565	751,674	988,163
Santo Domingo	1,830	656	6,623	6,536
Cuba	33,238	23,853	273,083	467,181
Porto Rico	9,069	699	15,098	32,984
Brazil	1,666	8,819	69,987	94,649
Colombia	2,511	6,216	17,147	49,606
Other South America	47,967	1,854	71,637	45,809
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	24,585	3,603	252,559	182,505
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	7,665	1,662	568,996	415,738
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	44,985	60,400	284,965	414,719
Mexico	34,158	57,587	294,222	359,170
Santo Domingo	15,521		106,299	132,912
Cuba		72,044	5,951	560,672
Porto Rico		24,715	1,023	214,913
Argentina	9,326	8,427	108,811	87,047
Brazil	40,974	47,169	386,198	293,989
Colombia	30,075	29,347	185,555	283,183
Other South America	104,446	85,596	846,720	793,686
Wearing apparel (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	12,395	26,661	151,632	193,064
Mexico	29,437	31,350	252,015	291,564
Santo Domingo	2,958	12	14,580	12,894
Cuba	55	21,092	10,855	129,859
Porto Rico		2,029	746	31,505
Argentina	4,418	2,771	28,615	34,307
Brazil	3,699	4,618	29,380	21,918
Colombia	2,543	4,926	26,932	29,058
Other South America	2,995	8,131	26,299	51,253
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	1,606	2,620	17,965	17,879
Mexico	4,831	6,243	37,818	45,847
Santo Domingo	179		452	326
Cuba	1,571	4,667	12,505	37,806
Porto Rico		560	287	3,947
Argentina	859	2	6,429	14,277
Brazil	1,349	1,009	5,052	6,642
Colombia	503	917	5,041	6,519
Other South America	1,117	2,813	10,462	12,703
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America				
Mexico	120	624	1,999	2,321
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos electricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	7,356	7,231	43,833	44,076
Mexico	38,285	64,942	217,086	338,335
Argentina	23,046	34,061	97,046	190,905
Brazil	11,203	6,722	40,144	65,678
Other South America	10,090	10,526	74,636	87,677

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; trilhos de aço; rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	$10,456	$4,453	$11,351	$17,734
Mexico	72,851	17,434	506,034	311,064
South America	11,853	1,331	261,403	90,176
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils*)—				
Central America	5,902	8,032	49,711	59,540
Mexico	15,784	30,316	267,804	297,585
Santo Domingo	1,618	242	8,837	6,453
Cuba	1,280	49,203	25,304	276,230
Porto Rico	45	3,497	3,699	21,535
Argentina	25,239	42,301	117,446	174,032
Brazil	21,348	21,821	115,171	160,076
Colombia	8,623	5,784	59,044	72,380
Other South America	22,714	27,478	132,044	163,687
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	1,988	2,594	15,254	13,693
Mexico	17,305	4,803	150,545	204,680
Santo Domingo	524	----------	1,284	1,355
Cuba	----------	8,982	27	24,511
Porto Rico	----------	109	1,050	3,681
Argentina	13,356	28,540	54,953	119,144
Brazil	5,858	16,307	67,472	95,529
Colombia	6,499	2,493	47,538	38,071
Other South America	15,140	13,131	76,180	92,179
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	178	----------	868	1,213
Mexico	2,297	5,062	23,652	39,429
Santo Domingo	----------	----------	----------	187
Cuba	78	2,669	787	18,966
Argentina	3,441	6,291	17,875	25,019
Brazil	1,001	192	3,549	5,218
Colombia	290	320	1,861	2,138
Other South America	522	1,324	9,439	20,284
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	587	2,349	4,150	8,760
Mexico	395	5,759	4,507	12,721
Santo Domingo	172	----------	358	1,057
Cuba	----------	3,281	1,627	20,247
Porto Rico	----------	220	708	6,794
Argentina	3,714	10,033	12,187	36,250
Brazil	3,076	4,978	40,792	49,055
Colombia	173	25	2,445	3,166
Other South America	1,785	5,688	11,151	30,091
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	3,249	9,351	48,370	76,990
Mexico	7,509	28,449	66,816	206,880
Colombia	3,669	5,907	26,181	28,154
Other South America	4,371	2,530	25,273	16,755
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	2,139	1,573	12,777	9,831
Mexico	146	1,608	6,824	7,108
Santo Domingo	75	----------	3,294	2,954
Cuba	38	1,975	2,586	9,052
Porto Rico	----------	79	281	778
Argentina	722	13,500	58,649	67,322
Brazil	18,847	16,298	111,202	150,515
Colombia	391	1,049	9,271	7,545
Other South America	9,942	8,306	56,979	43,332

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Naval stores—Continued.				
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*)—				
Central America	$210	$434	$1,998	$3,290
Mexico	228	313	2,947	3,358
Santo Domingo	63	----	335	385
Cuba	100	4,895	5,795	37,209
Porto Rico	----	269	583	2,832
Argentina	4,513	6,385	102,273	45,539
Brazil	5,791	12,027	54,300	44,743
Colombia	540	546	3,264	4,804
Other South America	4,202	5,506	50,331	41,994
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crús; Huiles minérales, brutes*):				
Mexico	29,162	40,761	181,165	355,693
Cuba	8,500	21,431	85,642	149,438
Porto Rico	----	----	19,477	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos mineraes, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	9,053	8,621	78,879	97,049
Mexico	9,182	12,841	114,574	145,560
Santo Domingo	652	396	32,653	18,280
Cuba	4,706	6,241	26,301	86,536
Porto Rico	222	3,063	9,832	40,002
Argentina	78,188	140,931	660,759	653,560
Brazil	149,942	158,813	1,013,741	994,589
Colombia	7,306	15,524	79,322	92,478
Other South America	61,216	86,714	733,835	785,485
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	110	125	2,291	3,558
Mexico	29,976	73,548	219,343	383,822
Santo Domingo	3,891	----	25,491	19,057
Cuba	42	4,701	908	25,715
Argentina	2,381	4,704	8,356	28,726
Brazil	4,090	20,865	163,522	140,461
Other South America	3,050	9,429	77,343	80,092
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	1,987	2,188	17,617	20,692
Mexico	15,453	7,474	101,848	162,903
Brazil	1,010	963	7,400	8,507
Other South America	1,737	670	5,115	5,364
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	1,698	2,585	15,612	14,567
Mexico	1,447	1,812	9,266	14,666
Santo Domingo	3	----	26	88
Cuba	2,274	778	4,848	10,783
Argentina	----	365	505	1,484
Brazil	2,251	1,241	18,716	10,060
Colombia	242	1,091	3,582	4,756
Other South America	601	3,097	9,612	12,128
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	2,839	3,979	24,686	25,484
Mexico	----	421	190	994
Santo Domingo	79	210	2,999	4,007
Cuba	3,560	716	6,799	19,805
Porto Rico	120	571	140	1,564
Brazil	281	116	929	1,233
Colombia	713	1,728	9,171	12,403
Other South America	13,308	12,092	119,993	105,135
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	8,315	7,070	66,701	64,325
Mexico	4,086	1,241	15,954	21,246
Santo Domingo	82	----	16,018	13,070
Cuba	----	396	7,142	1,976

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Tallow—Continued.				
Porto Rico			$176	$319
Brazil	$2,150	$1,430	5,625	20,456
Colombia	174	1,223	6,572	13,375
Other South America	1,575	532	16,623	28,543
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	2,071	2,610	10,389	13,076
Mexico	1,739	2,038	7,788	13,660
Santo Domingo	336		1,922	1,387
Cuba	61,520	96,168	400,457	626,737
Porto Rico	2,128	5,375	21,000	52,744
Brazil	49,241	17,839	258,672	144,992
Colombia	21		678	1,484
Other South America	702	375	14,795	10,812
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	1,694	2,943	15,796	16,917
Mexico	2,172	3,249	17,629	21,726
Santo Domingo	607		5,448	4,525
Cuba	32,008	80,239	193,707	508,497
Porto Rico		4,583	11,378	14,194
Brazil	583	264	2,662	2,149
Colombia	1,017	1,225	9,297	12,437
Other South America	6,209	9,579	44,125	59,742
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	8,449	7,738	54,912	45,600
Santo Domingo	690		5,250	3,684
Cuba	995	11,351	9,629	46,644
Porto Rico	6,404	11,153	75,355	132,439
Brazil	2,150	28	4,138	2,908
Colombia	498	915	6,231	27,975
Other South America	18,783	18,598	148,363	129,568
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	17,338	16,345	126,646	118,972
Mexico	7,473	49,232	92,182	168,622
Santo Domingo	2,943		27,678	16,544
Cuba	174,122	158,436	721,731	1,237,176
Porto Rico	10,193	21,101	95,820	171,397
Argentina	156	397	2,917	3,301
Brazil	128,645	90,426	652,084	713,334
Colombia	6,122	22,280	66,279	94,521
Other South America	44,487	95,309	447,592	512,404
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	100	437	1,191	2,465
Mexico	137	120	960	619
Colombia	678	246	6,238	7,686
Other South America	1,031	2,719	8,014	21,511
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Central America	3,433	5,299	31,290	32,486
Mexico	2,748	3,521	31,451	34,093
Santo Domingo	1,701		8,767	5,606
Cuba	1,316	3,296	5,119	81,625
Porto Rico	69	175	489	4,384
Brazil	4,953	17,555	69,127	145,363
Colombia	1,084	1,033	10,924	11,201
Other South America	10,894	52,181	71,191	158,506
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	1,550	1,791	11,752	11,959
Mexico	1,566	1,658	10,296	15,468
Santo Domingo	601		3,574	3,029
Cuba	1,001	4,902	14,997	51,299
Porto Rico	102	2,544	1,072	26,731
Brazil		8	75	217
Colombia	786	775	6,428	5,427
Other South America	1,209	1,476	11,100	9,275
Seeds (*Semillas; Sementes; Semence*):				
Central America	262	138	4,532	3,814
Mexico	480	555	24,411	11,144
Santo Domingo	10		361	259
Cuba	280	1,059	906	3,253

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Seeds—Continued.				
Porto Rico	----	$38	----	$596
Argentina	$9	----	$245	10,780
Brazil	----	104	445	688
Colombia	58	203	598	1,079
Other South America	125	65	1,550	1,735
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	1,802	1,655	25,531	14,144
Mexico	67	53	9,440	51,328
Santo Domingo	273	----	970	539
Colombia	459	1,107	12,826	11,438
Other South America	436	482	1,000	2,116
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	366	6,466	17,729	21,442
Mexico	15,246	23,592	88,842	106,583
Argentina	750	----	13,239	17,372
Colombia	544	608	6,252	4,714
Other South America	9,775	13,359	68,006	72,443
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué*):				
Central America	4,817	6,806	38,052	36,848
Mexico	1,959	689	24,534	14,387
Cuba	1,557	17,176	78,266	146,895
Argentina	168	2,415	1,078	5,978
Brazil	----	----	550	----
Colombia	238	648	4,287	5,225
Other South America	3,866	3,569	53,244	49,456
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	420	543	21,905	19,050
Mexico	45,026	9,503	297,938	106,021
Cuba	----	6,688	12,683	41,311
Argentina	385	788	6,407	13,636
Brazil	----	----	75	240
Colombia	173	3,998	21,011	14,518
Other South America	150	253	20,503	35,513
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction*):				
Central America	3,390	3,481	23,303	38,360
Mexico	66,573	95,185	538,973	643,420
Santo Domingo	2,286	3,330	22,999	26,774
Cuba	9,344	100,912	115,371	662,255
Porto Rico	----	5,551	19,224	70,254
Argentina	87,782	101,622	612,605	692,272
Brazil	38,162	11,998	430,201	277,742
Colombia	888	3,467	32,533	34,026
Other South America	55,012	95,930	388,370	431,893
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	3,598	1,754	28,973	23,288
Mexico	20,762	31,261	109,663	200,626
Santo Domingo	380	----	6,925	6,181
Cuba	190	17,377	10,309	115,972
Porto Rico	----	3,208	2,456	25,714
Argentina	12,179	24,436	36,852	76,425
Brazil	2,750	4,073	16,280	23,871
Colombia	2,348	2,508	18,179	22,264
Other South America	3,365	9,476	52,156	46,666

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1899.

The total value of the merchandise imported by the United States in August, 1899, was $66,764,696, against $49,677,349 in August, 1898. Of this amount 41.23 per cent, or $27,527,882, was free of duty. The imports for the eight months of the present calendar year, ending with August, amounted to $515,286,633—$229,391,462 free and $285,895,171

dutiable—against $426,922,568 for the same period in 1898. The duties collected in August, 1899, amounted to $20,546,697, against $16,249,699 collected in August, 1898. For eight months the aggregate was $147,823,662, against $118,396,225 for the same period in 1898. The percentage of free imports for the calendar year, up to and including the month of August of each of the years 1898 and 1899, was respectively 43.31 and 44.51.

The total value of the exports in August, 1899, was $102,874,024, against $83,157,397 in August, 1898. For the period of eight months ending with August the exports in 1899 amounted to $776,713,575, against $764,883,968 for the same period in 1898. Of these the products of agriculture were valued at $472,828,939, against $514,590,033 in 1898; of manufactures, $246,228,916, against $201,444,606; of mining, $20,762,738, against $16,800,331; of the forest, $31,991,820, against $27,231,447; of fisheries, $2,530,930, against $2,377,767; miscellaneous products, $2,370,232, against $2,439,784.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO AT CHICAGO.

General PORFIRIO DÍAZ, President of Mexico, was specially invited to attend the celebrations incident to the laying of the corner stone of the new post-office at Chicago from the 7th to the 10th of October, which was attended by the President of the United States and the Governor-General of Canada. It was confidently hoped that President DÍAZ could be present, in order that he might have ocular proof of the respect and admiration of the people of the United States for him and his administration, and that the bond of sympathy and good will between the two Republics might (if it possibly could be stronger) be strengthened. President DÍAZ himself expressed a strong desire to be present and had made preliminary arrangements to that end, but found that the trip would be impossible. Señor Don IGNACIO MARISCAL, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic, was sent as a substitute and was accorded all the honors befitting his rank and station, and proved himself a worthy representative of his country and its Chief Executive. But, notwithstanding this, the people could not but entertain a feeling of deep disappointment that the President of Mexico could not have been present in person.

The letter of President DÍAZ expressing his regrets was dated September 28, and was addressed to Mr. CHARLES U. GORDON, postmaster of Chicago, who was chairman of the committee which visited the City of Mexico and personally presented the invitation. It was substantially as follows:

"Pursuant to my promise to you and your honorable colleagues on the committee, when you so courteously presented an invitation for me to attend the festivities in the city of Chicago, shortly after Congress opened its regular session, I requested its permission, indispensable in my case, to leave the national territory. It was granted at once, in

deference, no doubt, to the evident expediency of improving that occasion to more closely bind and strengthen the friendly relations of our countries.

"Then nothing seemed to be in the way of a realization of my previously expressed desire to make prompt acceptance in return for the kindly insistence of your invitation. Nevertheless, my wishes are now unfortunately met by the fact, among other considerations, that motives of delicacy on the part of my substitute, as well as all of the members of my Cabinet, would impel him or them from acting upon some grave pending question during my absence, the holding up of which would undoubtedly cause some complications.

"Besides this, the health of my wife has recently undergone a regrettable change, which, although seemingly not foreboding grave consequences, in the opinion of her physicians may be prolonged, and this inspires me with the dread of some unexpected change for the worse.

"These reasons, very much to my regret, compel me not to make use of the Congressional permission, and to beg you to please present my excuses to the Governor of Illinois, the Mayor of Chicago, and each of the persons who have so kindly joined in the invitation, and to whom I am profoundly grateful for their exquisite politeness and courtesy. Never shall I forget the honor which they have paid me personally, or the consideration they have shown Mexico when inviting me, as they did on this occasion, with demonstrations exceptionally flattering and expressive.

"But since it is no longer possible for me to be present in person, I have designated Señor Don IGNACIO MARISCAL, Secretary of Foreign Relations, lately named by Congress as the substitute during my absence, to represent me at the great Chicago celebration on October 9."

SHIPMENTS OF LUMBER TO LATIN AMERICA.

A correspondent of the "Lumber Trade Journal" for September 15 says that the city of Mobile, Alabama, has made another record and that the season 1898–99 will go down in local history as the greatest lumber and timber year since the inauguration of that business and its growth into one of the principal industries of the port.

The volume of business for the season has been about 1,000,000 feet greater than the record-breaking year 1897–98, but the foreign exports have been about 7,000,000 feet greater than they were for that season. One of the most noteworthy features of the year is the return to this port of the large South American and Cuban business which it had in former years. One-fifth of the entire business has been with Cuba and the South American countries, 40,000,000 feet, in round numbers, representing the amount of lumber shipped to them. The exports to Latin America were as follows: Mexico, 4,226,855 feet; Cuba, 15,036,691 feet; Argentine Republic, 18,440,629 feet; Uruguay, 6,286,889 feet; Colombia, 1,103,397 feet; Honduras, 500,000 feet; Belize, 500,000. The

exports of hard woods amounted to 213,290 cubic feet, and there were also exported to the Argentine Republic 975,000 pickets and to Mexico 185,000 cross-ties.

STEAM PLOWS IN HAWAII.

Writing to the Department of State at Washington, under date of August 17, 1899, Mr. WILLIAM HAYWOOD, Consul-General, says that some days previous there was landed at Honolulu, for the American Sugar Company, a set of steam plows made by the firm of O. S. KELLEY at Springfield, Ohio. These plows were the first of the kind made in the United States, those heretofore manufactured not being of the cable description, but each was worked by the engine hauling the plow. Before that time all the steam plows were imported from Scotland, because of their cheapness and for the reason that no United States firm had manufactured that style of implement. The plows cost $20,000 per set, and were delivered in forty days, less time than they could be procured from Scotland. Mr. HAYWOOD says that it is estimated that during the next three years some twenty or thirty sets of plows will be required for the new plantations. They will all be bought in the United States if the ones just received prove satisfactory.

THE COFFEE MARKET.

The visible supply of coffee for the United States, October 3, 1899, was 1,355,611 bags of 132 pounds each, as compared with 963,943 bags of the same weight on the corresponding day in 1898. The world's visible supply of coffee on September 1, 1899—the latest available date—was 7,659,544 bags, as compared with 6,905,340 bags September 1, 1898. The total deliveries of coffee of all kinds in the United States during the month of September was 520,966 bags, as against 370,164 bags during the same month of 1898. The market continues firm, the nominal quotations in New York on invoices is 5.50 cents for Rio 7s, either "spot" or to arrive.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The "India Rubber World" of September 1, 1899, states that a congress of leading scientists and manufacturers interested in rubber will be called to meet in 1900 some time during the progress of the Paris Exposition. The assemblage will convene in that city and discuss methods for the production of rubber and the means to be employed for the preservation of rubber trees and for their protection against decay and from robbers. This congress will be of great interest to the producers of rubber in Mexico and the Central and South American Republics generally and should be well attended. The matter is of supreme importance to many if not all of the countries named.

The "Coal Trade Journal" of September 20 reports that on Admiralty Island, 3 miles from Killisnoo, Alaska, Mr. J. MCCLOSKY, an old

Pennsylvania miner, has been for some years working a coal prospect that promises to develop into one of the best coal mines on the Pacific coast. Six 160-acre tracts have been located. Samples of the coal have been tested in the stores of Juneau and Sitka and pronounced excellent for domestic purposes. Samples have also been forwarded to the Interior Department at Washington. If the find proves to be as extensive and of as good quality as predicted, the coal trade of the Pacific will be revolutionized to a great extent.

From January to August, inclusive, of this year, the export of manufactures from the United States has averaged more than $1,000,000 per day, including Sundays and holidays, the total for the 243 days being $246,228,916, while in the same months of last year the total export of manufactures was $201,444,606. Of this increase in exports of manufactures, iron and steel form the largest export items, the total value of iron and steel and their manufactures exported in the eight months ending with August being $68,008,071, against $52,925,082 in the corresponding months of last year.

A factory located at Sioux Falls, in the State of South Dakota, is engaged in polishing $1,000,000 worth of chalcedony or petrified wood for exhibition at the Paris Exposition in 1900. The wood is found in the Territory of Arizona and is shipped to Sioux Falls in great logs and stumps, weighing many tons each, to be sawed and worked up into columns, table tops, cuff buttons, jewelry, etc. The machinery used for sawing chalcedony can cut into it to the extent of only 3 inches a day, the petrified wood being seven-tenths as hard as a diamond.

The "Kosmos Steamship Company" will soon establish a monthly service between San Francisco and Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. The first steamer of the new line will probably leave for ports on the west coast of South America about December 20, 1899. The freight rates have been reduced about 50 per cent in order to allow the San Francisco business men to reach out for trade in the countries mentioned.

Material has been shipped from the city of Seattle for the construction of a new railroad 15 miles long in Alaska, in connection with the development of a coal tract on Kachkemo Bay, Cook Inlet.

URUGUAY.

NEW RAILWAY CONCESSION.

The Government has promulgated a law, granting a railway concession petitioned for by interested parties, of which the following is a summary:

The Executive is authorized to grant to CARLOS YOUNG & CO. a concession for building a narrow-gauge railroad from Algota on the

Uruguay Central Railroad to the port of Independencia with branches to Nuevo Berlin, to LIEBIG'S factory, and to Mercedes. The last-named branch may only be built by special authority of the Executive, and on condition that it does not interfere with the Western Railroad. The distance between the rails of this road must be a minimum of 75 centimeters (29.5275 inches), and the fixed and rolling stock must be of the best quality. The grades, weight of rails, curves, etc., shall be subject to the approval of the National Department of Engineers. When the definite plans have been approved, the Executive will issue the final concession, provided the concessionaires, as a guarantee of good faith, have deposited, subject to the order of the Government, an amount equal to 1 per cent of the estimated value of the line. The work of construction must be in progress within twelve months from the date of concession and be completed within three years. No interest is guaranteed the builders on the capital employed. The State binds itself to grant no other concession for a railroad from Algota to Independencia within a lateral zone of 15 kilometers (9.32 miles) on either side of the proposed line.

Proprietors of camp lands within the zone designated are required to pay an extra assessment of 25 per cent on their property tax if they do not open to agriculture a tenth part of their lands within two years after the opening of the railroad to traffic, an eighth part within four years, a fifth part within six years, and so on until all their lands are developed. Any amounts produced by this fine are to be devoted to the improvement of transit in the Department of Negro under control of the municipal board.

When the profits of the railroad shall exceed 8 per cent per annum the Government may intervene in regulating the charges. The value of the line for this purpose is to be calculated at $10,000 per kilometer, including the equipments. At the end of ninety years the road is to become the property of the Government without indemnity.

CUSTOM-HOUSE RECEIPTS.

The *Dirección General* of Customs has recently published the customs receipts for June, 1899. The entries give a total of $634,884, a falling off of $20,878 as compared with 1898.

It is evident, however, that in spite of the notable decrease indicated for June in these receipts, the general movement of business has been favorable; in fact, the totals for the first six months of 1899 exceed those of 1898 by $507,919, and the reported receipts for the first half of 1899 ($5,823,432) are greater than for any corresponding period since 1894.

VENEZUELA.

DECISION OF THE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

The decision of the Tribunal of Arbitration in the case of the boundary between the British Colony of Guiana and the Republic of Venezuela was announced at Paris, France, where all the sessions of the court have been held, on October 3, 1899, thus putting an end to a controversy that has lasted for more than fifty years.

The territory in dispute extended from the Essequibo River, on the east, almost to the Caroni and Orinoco rivers on the west, and from the Atlantic Ocean southward to the Brazil frontier. The extreme claim of Venezuela was the line of the Essequibo River, which was claimed to have been the original boundary between the colonies of Spain and Holland. On the other hand, the extreme contention of the British Government was a line beginning at Barima Point (Punta Barima), at the mouth of the Orinoco, running thence southwest and west, nearly parallel with and from 40 to 60 miles from the Orinoco to Upata; thence southward through the valley of the Caroni and close to that river, and southeast of Mount Roraima and the Brazilian frontier.

The British claim was based on the alleged fact that, both in 1781 and 1796, when Great Britain took the Dutch colonies, the English authorities marked the western boundary of their possessions as beginning at a point west of Point Barima up the Orinoco River, and then following the watershed between the Orinoco and Essequibo valleys. In 1814 Great Britain obtained from Holland by treaty formal title to the conquered territory, whose limitations were said to be as above. In 1840 Sir ROBERT SCHOMBURGK was commissioned to survey a boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana. According to Lord SALISBURY, he recommended a compromise, by which Great Britain was to surrender its claims to an extended inland frontier in return for the formal recognition by Venezuela of Great Britain's right to Point Barima. The result of this survey was the noted "Schomburgk line," which wanders southward from the mouth of the Barima River, following neither rivers nor mountains nor any other natural lines, to Mount Roraima. The Venezuelan Government protested against this line, whereupon the British Government declared it to be "merely tentative" and ordered the stakes removed.

Lord SALISBURY is quoted as saying that "this concession was made on the distinct understanding that Great Britain did not thereby in any way abandon her claim to that position." Then Lord ABERDEEN proposed a line running from the mouth of the Moroco River west and southwest to the junction of Cuyuni and Yuruari rivers, and thence up the Cuyuni to Mount Roraima. In reply Venezuela proposed to draw a straight line from the mouth of the Moroco River to the head-

waters of the Essequibo, coinciding with the fifty-ninth meridian of longitude. Then the British Government returned to the Schomburgk line. Still later Lord GRANVILLE proposed a line from the mouth of the Barima to the junction of the Acarabisi and the Cuyuni, whence it would be coincident with the Aberdeen line. Subsequently, in its final claim, Great Britain withdrew the "concessions" which had formerly been made.

The papers with reference to this case made it one of the most voluminous international controversies ever brought to arbitration. The British case and counter case filled 11 large volumes, 1 atlas, and a number of detached maps, while the Venezuela evidence made 6 large volumes and 3 atlases. Arbitration was agreed to by the contending Governments on February 2, 1897, the treaty being signed in the city of Washington, but it was not until the 15th of June, 1899, that the Tribunal met to hear and decide the case.

The decision, which, it is stated, was unanimous, was read by M. DE MARTENS, the umpire, who presided. The final award indicates that the established boundary will be almost identical with the Schomburgk line. The only points of difference seem to be that after leaving the Barima River it follows some small rivers and creeks instead of going across the open country.

As reported by telegraph, the finding of the Tribunal was as follows:

"The undersigned, by these presents, give and publish our decision determining and judging, touching and concerning the questions that have been submitted to us by said arbitration; and in conformity with said arbitration we decide, declare, and pronounce definitely that the line of frontier of the Colony of British Guiana and the United States of Venezuela is as follows:

"Starting on the coast at Point Playa, the frontier shall follow a straight line to the confluence of the Barima and the Katuima; thence following the thalweg of the latter to the source of the Corentin (otherwise called the Cutari) River; thence it shall proceed to the confluence of the Haiowa and the Amakura; thence following the thalweg of the Amakura to its source in the plain of Imataca; thence in a southwesterly direction along the highest ridge of the Imataca Mountains to the highest point of the Imataca range, opposite the source of the Barima and the principal chain of the Imataca Mountains; thence in a southeast direction to the source of the Acarabisi, following the thalweg of the Acarabisi to the Cuyuni, the northern bank of which it shall follow in a westerly direction to the confluence of the Cuyuni and the Vanamu; thence along the thalweg of the Vanamu to its westernmost source; thence in a straight line to the summit of Mount Roraima; thence to the source of the Cotinga. From this point the frontier shall follow the thalweg of the Cotinga to its confluence with the Takutu; thence along the thalweg of the Takutu to its source; thence in a straight line to the most western point of the Akarai Mountains, the

highest ridge of which it shall follow to the source of the Corentin, whence it will follow the course of the river.

"It is stipulated that the frontier hereby delimitated reserves and in no way prejudices questions actually existing, or that may hereafter arise, between Great Britain and the Republic of Brazil, or between the Republic of Brazil and Venezuela. In fixing the above delimitation the arbitrators consider and decide that, in time of peace, the rivers Amakura and Barima shall be open to navigation by the merchant shipping of all nations, due reserve being made with regard to equitable regulations and the payment of light dues and other like imposts, on condition that the duties levied by Venezuela and British Guiana on ships traversing the parts of those rivers owned by them respectively shall be imposed in accordance with the same tariff on Venezuelan and British vessels. These tariffs are not to exceed those of other countries."

The award proceeds also upon condition that neither Venezuela nor British Guiana shall impose any customs duty on goods carried in vessels, ships, or boats passing through these rivers, such customs duties being levied only on goods landed upon Venezuelan territory or on the territory of Great Britain, as the case may be.

TRADE AND COMMERCE IN 1898.

No. 2315 of the annual series of the "Diplomatic and Consular Reports" of Great Britain contains the reports of Acting-Consul ANDRAL at Caracas, Vice-Consul SCHIMMER at La Guayra, Vice-Consul KOLSTER at Puerto Cabello, Vice-Consul BÖDECKER at Maracaibo, Vice-Consul de LEMOS at Ciudad Bolivar, together with a summary of their reports and observations on the same by Mr. W. H. D. HAGGARD, the British Minister at Caracas. From this document the following information is obtained:

Mr. ANDRAL speaks of the general condition of the country as affecting trade and the causes therefor. The foremost is the reduction in the price of coffee, which declined 50 per cent in value. As this has been the staple product, the effect was disastrous, not only to the grower but indirectly to all the people, as it reduced the amount of money current. The Minister's comment is that for the year 1899 the prospects are worse, for the continual drought has destroyed the greater part of the crop, so that there will be not only an insufficient price but very little coffee to sell at prevailing rates, whereas, in 1898, though the price was low the quantity was fairly abundant.

Other causes noted noted were: The disturbed condition of the country; the suspension of the payments due on the public debts, and the prevalence for a part of the year of an epidemic of smallpox. Mr. ANDRAL notes as a hopeful sign that the coffee planters are beginning to look to other resources to help them in their straits. The Minister says many other products could be grown, but they would require more

care than coffee, which means more trouble and expense, "for the price of labor is high—here near Caracas it is 4 francs a day for an ordinary day laborer—while the dearness of living also adds to the prevention of the employment of much labor." But, he adds, "happily the cultivation of cocoa is well established, and Caracas cocoa is the best in the world. It is generally used to flavor inferior kinds. The price of cocoa has improved, and the cultivation is increasing, but five years, the time which must elapse before the cocoa bush is in bearing, is a very long time for a planter in Venezuela to wait for a return on his capital."

The price of sugar declined, and is now sold at 4d. a pound, while it costs 3½d. to manufacture. "West Indians would be glad, I imagine, to get this profit, but ideas are larger here. Sugar growing is a protected industry, its import being practically prohibited." The results of the experiments made in raising tobacco have been fairly encouraging. Fruit farming would seem to offer a prospect of success, for the trees (like coffee trees) would require little, if any, attention, while the production is extraordinary. Oranges, pineapples, and bananas are abundant all the year. The fertility of the soil is something marvelous. The exports of cattle to Cuba were large in 1898, and it is to be hoped the trade will increase, as there is no better grazing country in the world.

The Minister says the size and natural wealth of Venezuela are not generally realized. Its greatest length is calculated as being nearly 1,000 miles and its greatest width about 800 miles. Its coast line is about 2,000 miles, with numerous harbors. Much of its area is cultivatable and parts of it are extraordinarily fertile. It is capable of growing every kind of vegetable product, from the cocoa of the coast to the magnificent wheat of the State of Los Andes. It will also grow cotton, indigo, rice, barley, rubber, and various kinds of useful timber trees. It enjoys, in general, an ample water supply, it has every variety of climate, and is, on the whole, healthy and fit for Europeans to live in. Its geographical position, moreover, is such as would seem to mark it out for future wealth, given the other elements of prosperity.

Mr. ANDRAL alludes to the competition between foreign countries, especially with reference to the effect on English imports, and states that the decline in recent years of British trade in Venezuela is due rather to the impoverished condition of the country than to competition. Mr. KOLSTER states, however, that the decrease of British trade at Puerto Cabello is due to the proximity of the United States and the cheapness of the goods produced there. The importation of British coal has largely decreased, owing, as is asserted, to the utilizing of water power for electrical purposes and to the employment of gas engines.

After referring to German competition, the Minister says: "The question of American competition will, I imagine, be more serious in the future. American manufacturers have hitherto found a sufficient

market in the United States. It is only lately that they have seen their production larger than their local demand, and that they have consequently begun to export in any large quantities. It is to be expected that the impetus given by the results of the war with Spain, and the consequent realization of the fact of the existence of other markets besides the United States, will increase this effect. It may, indeed, be said to have already done so. The countries which will feel this first will naturally be those on the same continent."

With reference to the stability of the business firms of the Republic, the Minister says: "I hear from the various British commercial travelers that the Venezuelan houses with whom they deal are thoroughly trustworthy, and they speak highly of their commercial morality." One of these travelers is quoted as saying that 50 per cent of the trade is on prompt cash terms.

The imports at the port of La Guayra from the principal importing countries during the year 1898 were: From the United States, 15,309 tons, valued at £277,976; from Great Britain, 15,023 tons, valued at £169,470; from Germany, 8,892 tons, valued at £172,016. The balance of the imports, amounting to 6,796 tons and £312,967, were from France, Spain, Holland, and Italy, in the order named. The duties collected by the Custom-House on foreign goods imported during the fiscal year 1898 amounted to 15,735,590.29 bolivars (currency), or £623,192.

The exports were as follows: Coffee, 13,808,958 kilos, against 7,946,428 kilos in 1897; cocoa, 5,290,166 kilos, against 3,765,942 kilos in 1897; hides, 963,437 kilos, against 899,560 in 1897; sundries, 356,607 kilos, against 424,314 in 1897.

The imports at Puerto Cabello in 1898, as compared with 1897, were as follows, stated in English currency:

Countries.	1898.	1897.	Loss.
United States	£163,910	£110,751	[1] £53,159
Great Britain	102,700	130,818	28,118
Germany	78,440	116,170	37,730
France	38,910	48,566	9,656
Other countries	41,180	60,228	19,148
Total	425,140	466,533	41,493

[1] Gain.

The exports were: 13,024,633 kilos of coffee, against 10,979,559 in 1897; 325,547 kilos of cocoa, against 232,526 in 1897; 530,077 kilos of hides, against 616,754 in 1897; 128,931 kilos of skins, against 68,876 in 1897; 1,047 kilos of quina (cinchona bark), against 6,584 in 1897; 127,220 kilos of copra, of which there were no exports in 1897. In addition, 9,973 head of cattle were sent to Cuba.

The imports at the port of Maracaibo amounted to 4,919,683.40 bolivars (a bolivar being equal to 19.3 cents in United States currency). The general exports were as follows, nearly all of the items showing an

increase over 1897: Coffee, 26,494,530 kilos; cocoa, 129,935 kilos; quina, 12,047 kilos; hides, number, 32,886; goatskins, 1,004 packages; sugar, 438,375 kilos; fustic, 6,550,465 kilos; divi-divi, 802,027 kilos; copaiba, 35,778 kilos; fish sounds, 40,171 kilos; deerskins, 2,556 kilos.

In the year 1898 all the imports received at Ciudad Bolivar (in the interior on the Orinoco River) came from Trinidad, except 10½ per cent. The total value of the imports that year were £233,800, against £243,845 in 1897. For 1898 the receipts from Trinidad—the majority of this trade being goods in transit—amounted to £209,351, an increase of £37,365 over 1897. From Germany goods to the amount of £16,653 were imported, being a loss of £16,570. From the United States the receipts fell off from £38,619 to £7,768. The principal articles of export and their value were: Gold bullion, £111,068; hides, £68,255; rubber, £69,138; cattle, £42,062; heron feathers, £20,708; tonga beans, £19,247; tobacco, £10,782, coffee, £5,862; cocoa, £2,235. The total value of the exports in 1898 was £354,008, against a total of £339,197 in 1897. The rubber exported was classified as "Para" and "Balata." The latter variety is extracted from the "bullet-wood" tree, of which vast forests exist in the country south of the Orinoco River. During 1898 over 500 tons were exported. The price received for this product (1s. 3d. per pound in London) is regarded as remunerative, but the system followed in obtaining the rubber from the trees is likely to make its collection more and more difficult. Instead of tapping the trees as for Para rubber they are cut down, which facilitates the extraction of the sap. The consequence is that the workers have to move on as the forests become exhausted.

The quantity of egret (heron) feathers exported reached a total of 2,839 kilos in 1898. Considering that about 870 birds have to be killed to obtain 1 kilo (about 2 pounds 3 ounces) in weight of the small feathers, or 215 birds for 1 kilo of the larger feathers, the destruction of these birds must be very great, and the probabilities are that the species will soon become extinct in Venezuela. The Minister regards the slaughter of these birds as appalling.

THE CULTIVATION OF HENEQUEN.

In communicating with the Department of State at Washington under date of August 5, 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, of Maracaibo, forwarded a copy of a contract for the cultivation of henequen in the Republic, which may not only be of importance to Venezuela, but to Mexico and the United States as well. The document is summarized as follows:

"H. PIÑANGO LARA binds himself to establish the cultivation of henequen in Venezuela and to exploit it with the most approved machinery. The National Government agrees to rent him the necessary land in each of the States, Zulia, Falcon, and Lara, at an annual rental of 10 bolivars ($1.93) per hectare (2.471 acres). The right to cultivate

all other textile plants growing on said lands is conceded. The contractor binds himself to import the necessary foreign laborers, who are entitled to all the benefits given by the immigration law. He is allowed the free introduction of all machinery, tools, instruments, and seeds; 10 per cent of all seeds imported shall be given to the State Board of Agriculture for distribution. The enterprise is exempt from taxation, but the Government shall receive 5 per cent of the profits, to be paid annually, fiscal agents being appointed when necessary. This contract can be transferred to any person or company, with the approval of the National Government, but not to a foreign government. The contractor binds himself to introduce the necessary machinery, etc., within one year, counting from the day on which this contract shall be legally approved, with the option of a second year if necessary. Compliance with this agreement must be guaranteed by the deposit of 4,000 bolivars ($772) in any banking institution of Venezuela, within six months after the definite approval of the contract, said amount to be withdrawn as soon as the machinery is installed. Orders to facilitate the transportation of all textile plants shall be given to the different custom-houses. This contract shall not interfere with similar contracts previously made, or with persons actually occupying lands and engaged in the cultivation of textile plants. On the contrary, said persons, by paying a modest remuneration, are entitled to use the machinery established by the contractor. A new grant, with the same conditions, may be obtained at the expiration of this contract, provided the enterprise is developing and still requires aid."

MINERAL RESOURCES.

In the course of a recent report to the Foreign Office of Great Britain Mr. W. H. D. Haggard, the British Minister at Caracas, calls especial attention to the great mineral resources of Venezuela. He says there is hardly a mineral product known that can not be found in some part of the country. Not all can be found in paying quantities, but gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, sulphur, and coal could be mined with profit both to the country and to the investors. The working of these mines ought, under improved conditions of traffic and transport, to add greatly to the wealth not only of Venezuela, but of the world. Venezuela is already blessed by nature with a magnificent water system, and when once these great arteries of trade are supplemented by feeders in the form of roads the Minister declares a new era of prosperity should dawn for the country. While it is believed there is plenty of petroleum lying dormant under Venezuelan soil, one of the most noticeable sources of mineral wealth now unutilized are the asphalt lakes, apparently forming a part of the same system in which is included the famous pitch lake in the neighboring island of Trinidad.

DEATH OF GENERAL RENGIFO.

There was received in Washington, a few days ago, the sad intelligence of the death, by drowning in the Magdalena River, of General Don JULIO RENGIFO M., who up to a few months ago was Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia in the United States. This lamentable occurrence has produced a profound impression in official and social circles. General RENGIFO was one of the most distinguished public men of Spanish America, and in his own country held important offices to the satisfaction of all. He was born in Cali, Department of Cauca, in 1858. He studied law in the capital of the Republic, and was a puisne judge and a justice of the Departmental Court. In 1888 he was elected a Representative to the National Congress. He took part in the campaigns of 1876, 1879, and 1895, reaching the grade of General in Chief the Army. He was military commander of the Department of Panama during the work on the canal. He entered the diplomatic career in 1889 as Secretary of the Legation of Colombia in Washington, where he performed important services for his country. Energetic, studious, and learned, Señor RENGIFO ably and brilliantly executed the many duties intrusted to him by his Government.

A few months ago General RENGIFO returned to Colombia and his Government honored him with the high office of Minister of Finance, and a short time thereafter confided to him its diplomatic representation in Ecuador. He was en route to that country at the time of the unfortunate occurrence which resulted in his death. General RENGIFO was one of the best friends and supporters of the Bureau of the American Republics, and to his valuable efforts is in great part due Colombia's reentry into the International Union of American Republics.

MR. WORTHINGTON'S REPORTS.

The province of the Bureau of the American Republics is to furnish information of interest to manufacturers, merchants, and shippers respecting the resources, growth, and business opportunities of all the American States which form the association known as "The International Union of American Republics. The field it covers could hardly be more inviting or boundless, and yet, by reason of its international character as representative of the Governments rather than the peoples of the independent political entities of the New World, it has certain limitations which must be apparent to all thinking people. The func-

tions of the Bureau were declared by its founders to be the collecting, collating, and disseminating of data of the character mentioned above. When, through the facilities it possesses, it has performed these offices and laid before the peoples of the several countries it represents facts which show the conditions prevailing in them, it would seem that its duty has been fulfilled, for the sagacious business man, the wide-awake exporter, and the enterprising manufacturer are usually satisfied when new markets and fields of opportunity are indicated to them with information regarding the conditions there prevailing, and they shape their course so as to meet the requirements of these new openings.

In the effort to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the nature of its functions the Bureau has just issued "Bulletin No. 94," which is a reprint of the reports of Mr. T. WORTHINGTON, the Special Commissioner appointed by the British Board of Trade to inquire into and report upon the conditions and prospects of British trade in certain South American countries. Mr. WORTHINGTON, in the pursuit of his investigations, in 1898–99, visited Chile, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, and Uruguay. The importance and comprehensive nature of these reports, as well as their varied and instructive commercial features, much of which will be an object lesson to the manufacturers and shippers of the United States and other countries in the three Americas, will commend them to all interested in these subjects.

A perusal of Mr. WORTHINGTON'S reports is well worth the time of every exporter seeking to enlarge his business opportunities, and will be a source of profit to the United States manufacturer, who will find much solid advice, as well as complimentary references to his handiwork. In writing from Chile, Mr. WORTHINGTON says: "I think it may be taken for granted that wherever any American goods can be pushed in, no considerations of possible loss in the attempt will prevent their being given a full trial." By way of advice, and from the same place, Mr. WORTHINGTON writes: "It may seem to some manufacturers on reading this letter that the general form in which the great bulk of the import trade in Chile is conducted, viz, through the intervention of the merchants and shipping houses, is not the best in the manufacturer's interest. However this may be, it is the method in existence and a growth of years. The direct method could possibly be extended somewhat by more of the right sort of travelers and by special care in the selection of buyers. It must be borne in mind that a great many buyers are not accustomed to drafts being drawn on them; they do not like having to accept them before they see the goods, nor do they like having no one on the spot to whom they can apply if they have any reclamation to make in respect of the goods. As a matter of experience, so troublesome has a large amount of business done in this form proved that one of the principal banks here has raised its rate of commission upon the collections and declined to undertake them at all unless an

agent were appointed to whom the bank could apply to take charge of the goods in the event of difficulty."

Mr. WORTHINGTON in several instances refers to the oft-repeated criticism of United States manufacturers to the effect that they are unwilling or unprepared to supply goods "according to a given assortment of patterns," preferring, as has been charged, to impose their own selections rather than cater to the tastes of their neighbors to the south, however conservative and time-honored they may be.

If imitation is the sincerest flattery, the manufacturers of the United States will find in these reports much pleasurable pabulum, for they fairly bristle with references to German and other imitations of American goods.

With respect to American electrical machinery, the reports state that it has a great hold on the southern market, which their author attributes to its perfection for doing its work, combined with its neatness and lightness, and adds "German machinery—frequently a poor and cheap copy of the American—finds a market, and even Italian work is now coming."

The author frequently speaks of the quickness with which the United States manufacturers fill their orders, and refers to the case of a machine which was made in the United States for a Chilean buyer in two months after fruitless attempts in England for a year and a half to get it made there.

Writing from Brazil, the Commissioner inserts the following paragraph, which contains advice that might be heeded by United States manufacturers:

"A leading German importer told me he found great difficulty in getting anything from England; that when English travelers called upon him they were not able to state prices in marks or francs quickly, but had to stop to calculate the equivalents of their English prices from tables; that their invoices were not only all in English, and with English weights and money, all most difficult for his Brazilian clerks, instead of kilos and francs or marks which everyone understands, but they even contained incomprehensible contractions, and moreover displayed want of attention to custom-house requirements."

Mr. WORTHINGTON has performed his duties with admirable tact and intelligence, and his reports give exhaustive information as to the conditions of the southern markets, the character of goods needed, the prices of these, manner of packing, tariff duties, etc., and the Bureau of the American Republics is confident that no publication it has ever issued contains in so compact a form such varied and instructive information as is now placed before the manufacturers and merchants of the United States.

The reports, as stated, are published in the form of a bulletin and will be sold at 35 cents a copy.

BOOK NOTICES.

"The Cosmopolitan" for October, under "Great Industries of the United States," has an interesting illustrated article on zinc mining, by Mr. FRANK EBERLE. The writer states that "Zinc mining is rapidly becoming one of the greatest of American industries. A few months ago the United States furnished but one-eighth of the world's zinc supply, but the yield is increasing to such an extent that America's proportion of the output of zinc ore will soon be about one-fourth of the world's supply. Practically all of the zinc ore of the United States is mined in southwest Missouri, an adjoining county in southeast Kansas, and two counties in northern Arkansas." This district produced over $6,000,000 worth of zinc ore last year, and about $1,000,000 worth of lead ore. The output of the former this year will be more than double that of last year. The district produces about seven-eighths of the zinc ore of the United States. "Most all of the zinc and all of the lead are used in this country for manufacturing purposes, but the demands for American zinc ore and spelter in Europe are constantly increasing, and several large exportations of this ore have recently been made. It is shipped to the smelters in Belgium and Wales." Some foreign smelters have established agencies in the district named for the purchase of the ore. During the last twenty-five years the zinc mines of the district have yielded more than $60,000,000 worth of ore, yet only within the last five years has the locality been considered of any great importance. The aggregate zinc and lead ore sales for the last twelve years have been as follows:

1888	$2,321,597	1894	$3,535,736
1889	2,722,500	1895	3,771,979
1890	3,367,687	1896	3,667,495
1891	3,840,480	1897	4,813,667
1892	4,580,787	1898	7,171,814
1893	3,317,632	1899 (estimated)	15,000,000

Zinc ore represents about nine tenths of the foregoing sales. "Joplin, the commerciel center of the mining district, is a busy city of 25,000 inhabitants and is growing at the rate of 1,000 people a month."

In an article in a recent number of the "Südamerikanische Rundshau," Major TOEGEL, of the German Army, presents a very complete and carefully prepared statement in regard to the army and navy of Chile. The Republic is divided into four military zones. Under the law of December 31, 1896, the total number of regular troops in time of peace is limited to 9,000, excepting at the time of mobilization of the National Guard, when every Chilean between the ages of 18 and 50 is subject to military duty. The National Guard is a most important military factor in Chile in case of war. It is divided into three parts,

namely: Active, 97,048 men; first reserve, 165,595; second reserve, 211,945; total, 474,588. To which is to be added for 1897, 8,730 men; for 1898, 29,282, a total of 38,012; making a grand total for 1899 of 512,600 men. Of these 117,563 belong to the active National Guard. In the active list are included all Chileans of the age of 20 years. The first reserve comprises those who are 21 years and have all seen service. The second reserve includes all citizens up to the age of 30; beyond this age only unmarried men are subject to military duty.

The troops of the line consists of ten regiments of infantry, each one a battalion of four companies in time of peace and of two battalions in time of war; eight regiments of cavalry of four squadrons each (here to one squadron for escort duty); five regiments of light artillery of four batteries; one regiment of coast artillery of two battalions; one engineer corps of four companies, which are distributed among the military zones; one ambulance corps.

The commissioned officers are as follows: Generals of division, 4; brigadier-generals, 6; colonels, 18; lieutenant-colonels, 40; majors, 65; captains, 200; first lieutenants, 140; second lieutenants, 150.

The Chilean Navy has 3 armored ships (of 7,400, 3,550, and 1,130 tons, respectively), 1 armored cruiser (7,300 tons), 4 cruisers (together 15,710 tons), 3 torpedo destroyers (737, 700, and 700 tons, respectively), 4 torpedo finders (each 311 tons), 2 gunboats (1,020 and 796 tons), 2 transports, 6 sloops (from 58 tons to 168 tons), 1 school ship, and 10 torpedo boats. Besides these, in the course of construction are the following: One armored ship (8,500 tons), 1 school ship, and 6 torpedo boats (142 tons each). The personnel of the Chilean Navy consists of 1 vice-admiral, 5 rear admirals, 60 captains, 29 lieutenants, 78 marines, 195 surgeons and staff officers, and 3,794 men.

Major TOEGEL gives a critical review of the conditions prevailing, and much other data of particular interest to military and naval circles.

In "Virchow's Yearly Medicinal Report" (Berlin), Dr. SCHELLONG has contributed a chapter upon medicinal geography, including endemic diseases, in which he reviews the new literature upon the subject. The study of and the combating of tropical diseases is a most important factor in tropical colonization, and to this end the report is a contribution to colonial history. Special attention is paid to the question of malarial fevers, and Dr. SCHELLONG states that through German investigation a great deal has been done toward giving a better idea of this, one of the most persistent enemies of mankind. One point in particular which he sets forth is the spread of this fever through infection. Dr. KOCH, the celebrated German savant, has maintained with great positiveness that the mosquito is without doubt the carrier of this disease. The protection against this insect will therefore in future play a more important rôle than heretofore in the colonization of the Tropics.

Under the caption "Three Years of American Expansion," Mr. W. R. LAWSON contributes to the "Bankers' Magazine" (London) for September an interesting analysis of what he terms "the latest American boom." The writer declares that the business of the United States for the three years 1897, 1898, and 1899, which have been so far the period of this boom, has "marked an advance which any Old-World country might be pleased to achieve in as many decades. Stripped of all its brag and bombast, enough solid, indisputable fact remains in it to render it one of the most remarkable economic episodes of our time." The immense productive power of the United States is pointed out and the ability to feed the Old World is prophesied, while the country's industrial progress and rivalry with the manufactories of Great Britain are commented on to the disparagement of the latter.

The October number of "The Anglo-American Magazine" contains the first installment of a continued article on "The Alaskan Boundary Line," by the Hon. DAVID GLASS, Q. C., and a paper on "A Visit to Brazil," by ALDEN BELL. The Hon. DAVID GLASS treats the subject he has in hand with evident fairness, and has this to say with respect to the United States as a whole: "Standing on the summit of the Rocky Mountains, with one hand overshadowing the Atlantic and the islands of the Caribbean Sea, the other hand bends an elbow down on the Pacific coast, and with shut fist holds one thousand islands in the Pacific Ocean—all the Aleutians, all the Hawaiians, all the Philippines, and one of the Ladrones. Such an aggrandizement in a single century with so little loss of life has not been witnessed since the gray dawn of time." Mr. ALDEN'S article is mostly given up to a description of the city of Rio Janeiro and its people, and is the work of a keen observer.

The "Directory of Havana and Commercial Handbook of Cuba for 1899," edited and published under the direction of L. V. de ABAD by the Cuban Real Estate Improvement Company, of New York and Havana, is a large and well-stored volume containing about all the information one could desire regarding the island of Cuba and its chief city. The directory proper is preceded by a description of the geographical position, physical conditions, orography, natural resources, and mineral wealth, etc., of the "Pearl of the Antilles," which is immediately succeeded by the English and Spanish text of the protocol of agreement between the United States and Spain embodying the terms of a basis for the establishment of peace between the two countries, and of the Treaty of Peace of December 10, 1898. The volume seems to be complete in every particular.

In the "Implement Age" (Philadelphia) for September 15, 1899, Mr. GEORGE D. COLEMAN contributes an article on "Securing Foreign Trade." He says that there are three nations that are the "most

prominent in the quest for foreign trade—England, Germany, and the United States. England seeks to hold her own; Germany seeks to extend; the United States seeks to enter new markets and extend her relations where now in evidence." Mr. COLEMAN is of the opinion that there has been too much sentimentality and not enough practical business in the methods of the United States in its reach for foreign markets.

"Kultur und Reiseskizzen aus Nord und Mittel Amerika" is the title of a work issued from the press of ALBERT RATHKE, Magdeburg. The author, Dr. H. PAASCHE, a member of the German Parliament, tells in easy conversational style of a journey through the United States, Mexico, and Central America, and also to Cuba and Venezuela. The main object of these trips was the study of the sugar industry. The author's observations in regard to the manufacture of beet sugar in the States of Nebraska and California in the United States and a chapter on the economic conditions of Venezuela are of particular interest and value.

The Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture of the United States has recently issued a pamphlet prepared by HENRY E. ALVORD, C. E., on "Experimental Exports of Butter in 1897." This is a reprint from the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and is issued for the purpose of stimulating the exportation of first-class butter, as "the demand for butter of good quality in Great Britain and the steady increase in this demand offers a market for large quantities of the best creamery product of the United States."

The various expeditions which were sent out by the Chilean Government to explore the heretofore unknown parts of the Patagonian Andes have returned to Santiago. The first complete report has been made by Dr. P. KRUGER with reference to his explorations of the Yelcho River, which appeared in the newspaper, "Deutsche Nachrichten," at Valparaiso, May 4, 1899. In 1897 Dr. KRUGER discovered the mouth of the Yelcho River to be at the Bay of Corcovado, and he has now conclusively proved that the great Patagonian stream is identical with the Ftaleufú River. The result of the expedition will be several valuable corrections of the maps of this territory.

"Fielden's Magazine" (London) for September contains an editorial on "Consular Reports," in which the observations of British consular officers and the methods employed by the British Foreign Office in getting these before the public are contrasted with like service in the United States and Germany. Neither the general tone of the British reports nor the methods of their publication by the Government meet with the approval of the writer, who especially commends the United States for the immediate publication of reports sent in by its representatives to foreign governments.

A valuable monograph has just been issued by the Geological Department of Georgia. The work has been issued as "Bulletin No. 6—A Preliminary Report on Part of the Clays of Georgia," making a volume of over 200 pages, with 28 illustrations and a full-page map of Middle Georgia, showing the location of the "Fall Line." This line, extending in a northeasterly direction across the State from Columbus to Augusta, is the boundary line or the surface line of contact between the "Costal Plain" and the "Piedmont Plateau."

An interesting article in the October number of "The American Monthly Review of Reviews" is from the pen of CORRY M. STADDEN on "Our Diplomatic Relations with Nicaragua," and contains much readable matter regarding the diplomatic and historical aspect of the Nicaragua Canal question. The article is embellished with a portrait of Señor LUIS F. COREA, the new Nicaraguan Minister to the United States, who is referred to in highly complimentary terms.

The "Geographical Journal" for September, 1899, contains the first installment of an article by Dr. FRANCISCO P. MORENO, entitled "Explorations in Patagonia." The publication named is issued under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society of London, and Dr. MORENO'S paper was read at the meeting of the Society on May 29, 1899. In its printed form it is profusely illustrated, and, taken as a whole, is an important contribution to the geography of South America.

"Sur l'Âge des Couches Traversées par le Canal de Panama" (The Age of the Strata Crossed by the Panama Canal) is an article of a scientific nature appearing as a recent bulletin of the French Geological Society. The writer, Mr. H. DOUVILLE, gives an analysis of a rich collection of Tertiary fossils from along the line of the projected Panama Canal. He concludes that the sediment of which the Isthmus of Panama consists belongs to two different systems.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued, as "Report No. 62," a pamphlet entitled "Cultivation of Cigar Leaf Tobacco in Florida," prepared by Mr. MARCUS L. FLOYD, of the Department, who has had about twelve years' experience in the development of the industry about which he writes. The report describes the methods used in Florida in cultivating, curing, fermenting, grading, sorting, and baling Florida-grown Cuban and Sumatran tobaccos.

Mr. JEAN HABEL, in his book entitled "Ansichten aus Süd-Amerika," printed by DIETRICH REIMER, Berlin, 1897, contributes some valuable observations regarding the River Plate and west coast regions of South America. The work is embellished with 70 photo-

graphic views and a map of the Aconcagua valley of the Republic of Chile.

A new illustrated paper has made its initial appearance in the City of Mexico. It is called "El Alacran," and is edited by Señor ALBERTO ARONS, a Spanish newspaper man of considerable experience. The illustrations are by Señor ANGEL PONS, the clever sketch artist and chief editor of "El Correo Español."

"Korff's Welt Reise" (A Journey Through Australia to New Zealand and South America) is the title of a collection of short, entertaining sketches regarding the countries named, issued from the Deutsches Druck- und Verlags-Haus, Berlin, Germany.

A commercial paper, entitled "La Gaceta Mercantil" (The Mercantile Gazette) is now being issued daily (except Sunday) in the City of Mexico. It is edited by Señor ANTONIO P. GONZALES, assisted by Señor ANSELMO ALFARO. It will be devoted solely to commercial affairs.

Sir MARTIN CONWAY has added to the first report of his expedition in the Bolivian Andes (Geographical Journal, July, 1899) a map of the Cordillera Real easterly from La Paz. There are also a number of photographic illustrations.

In the "Wide World Magazine" for September, the most interesting article for persons interested in South American geography and customs is one by Mrs. PENNIMAN, describing her journey of 100 miles overland from Lake Titicaca to Buenos Ayres.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

During the past month the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following publications:

"Regulations for the Execution of the Police Law of Railroads of the Island of Cuba." (Translation.) Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, U. S. September, 1899.

"Translation of the Municipal and Provincial Laws in Force in the Island of Cuba." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, U. S. August, 1899.

"Translation of the Notarial Laws in Force in the Philippine Islands, and Appendices Relating Thereto." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, U. S. August, 1899.

"Electoral Law for the Election of Councilors and Provincial Deputies in Porto Rico." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, U. S. August, 1899.

"Informe del Segundo Semestre y Fin de Año Económico, 1898 á 1899." National Printing Office, San José, Costa Rica, 1899.

"Memoria del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, 1899." "El Tiempo" Printing Office, Lima, Peru.

"The Cambridge Encyclopedia" for May, June, July, August, September, and October. New York, 1899.

"Transactions of the Oneida Historical Society at Utica, New York." Utica, 1899.

"Le Brésil," by E. LEVASSEUR. Paris, 1899.

"Guía Postal de la República Mexicana." Mexico, 1899.

"Mexico and the United States," by MATÍAS ROMERO. New York, 1898.

"Reclamación del Ciudadano Americano, VICTOR H. MACCORD." Lima, Peru, 1899.

"Report of Her Majesty's Commissioner in Crete on the Provisional British Administration of the Province of Candia." Pamphlet. London, July, 1899.

"Barbados. Annual Report for 1898." Annual (British) Colonial Report, No. 262. Pamphlet. London, August, 1899.

"St. Helena. Report for 1898." Annual Colonial Report (British), No. 265. Pamphlet. London, August, 1899.

"Trade of Venezuela for the Year 1898." Annual Series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports of Great Britain, No. 2315. Pamphlet. London, July, 1899.

"Trade of Nicaragua for the Year 1898." No. 2329 of the Diplomatic and Consular Reports of Great Britain. Pamphlet. London, August, 1899.

"Trade of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and District for the Year 1898." British Diplomatic and Consular Reports, No. 2332, Annual Series. Pamphlet. London, August, 1899.

"Trade of Mexico for the Year 1898." British Diplomatic and Consular Reports, No. 2336, Annual Series. Pamphlet. London, August, 1899.

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics.

Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.

Argentinisch Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.

Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.

Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.

Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.

Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.

British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.

Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York.

Coal Trade Journal. New York. Weekly.

Diario Oficial. Bogota, Colombia. Daily.

Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.

Diario Oficial (Official). Mexico, Mexico. Daily.

Diario Oficial (Laws). Mexico, Mexico. Daily.

Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.

Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.

El Agricultor Mexicano. Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.

El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.

El Economista Mexicano. Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.

El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.

El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.

El Progreso de México. Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.

El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.

El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.

Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.

Fielden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.

Free Museum of Science and Art. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Quarterly.

Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.

Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.

Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.

Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.

Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.

Lavoura (A). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.

La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.

La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.

La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.
La Plate Zeitung. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.
La Producción Argentine. Buenos Ayres.
La Producción Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Semi-monthly.
Modern Mexico. St. Louis, Mo., and Mexcio City. Monthly.
Moniteur Officiel. Paris, France. Weekly.
Novedades (Las). New York, N. Y. Weekly.
Petermann's Mitteilungen. Gotha, Germany. Monthly.
Revista Brazileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
Revista de la Instrucción Pública de Colombia. Bogota, Colombia. Monthly.
Revista Maritima Brazileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
Revista Mensual. Asunción, Paraguay. Monthly.
Revista Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
Semana Mercantil. Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.
Times (The). London, England. Daily.
Trade and Navigation Reports (Official). London. Monthly.
Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.

BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. OCTUBRE, 1899. No. 4.

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

PORVENIR COMERCIAL.

El Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en la República Argentina, llegó á Nueva York el día 13 de setiembre de 1899, procedente de Buenos Aires, después de un viaje un tanto azaroso. En respuesta á la pregunta que se le hizo acerca del porvenir comercial de aquel país, dijo, según el "Export Implement Age," lo que sigue:

"Opino que es bastante halagador. El año pasado fué excepcionalmente satisfactorio para los importadores de maquinaria agrícola, porque durante muchos años hubo gran flojedad en el comercio todo, á causa de las grandes pérdidas que habían sufrido los agricultores por la devastación producida por la langosta, así como por la sequía en algunos lugares. Durante este tiempo los importadores lograron disminuir sus cuentas por pagar, de suerte que, cuando se recogieron el año pasado buenas cosechas de trigo y de maíz, sus marchantes pudieron comprar la maquinaria que necesitaban.

"El país exportó como 1,200,000 toneladas de trigo de la cosecha actual y más ó menos 400,000 toneladas de maíz. Además de esto el trasquile ha sido muy grande y han aumentado constantemente las exportaciones de ganado vacuno y lanar, al mismo tiempo que han ido mejorando estos productos. Esta mejora se debe en gran parte á la rápida extensión del cultivo de la alfalfa, que se da muy bien en un gran terreno y produce carne de vaca y de carnero muy buena y muy barata. La extensión de cultivo del trigo va aumentando gradualmente en dirección hacia la parte sur del país, que está más al abrigo del azote de la langosta que las secciones del norte."

COMERCIO EXTERIOR DE ENERO Á JUNIO DE 1899.

En el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de setiembre, se publicó un artículo relativo á las exportaciones de la República Argentina durante la primera mitad de 1899, artículo tomado del periódico "The Review of the River Plate." Después de esa fecha, se han obtenido datos del Departamento Nacional de Estadística. Comparados éstos con las cifras correspondientes á los primeros seis meses de 1898, se ve que el aumento en el valor del comercio exterior fué de $15,317,504, oro. En 1898 las importaciones ascendieron á $49,553,375, y las exportaciones á $81,632,825, ó sea un total en el tráfico de $131,186,200. En 1899 los totales fueron respectivamente $57,452,942, $89,050,762 y $146,503,704. El aumento en el valor de las importaciones fué de $7,899,567, y en el de las exportaciones, de $7,417,937. El aumento en el valor del tráfico durante la primera mitad de 1898, comparado con el del mismo período en 1897, fué de $17,443,886.

Las exportaciones fueron clasificadas de la manera siguiente:

Productos.	1899.	1898.	Aumento.
Pastoriles	$52, 590, 876	$48, 942, 449	$3, 648, 427
Agrícolas	34, 629, 263	31, 043, 896	3, 585, 367
Forestales	1, 145, 974	1, 019, 359	126, 615
Minerales	115, 312	103, 883	11, 419
De la caza	165, 619	108, 715	56, 904
Misceláneos	403, 718	414, 513	*a* 10, 795
Totales	89, 050, 762	81, 632, 825	7, 417, 937

a Diminución.

Las importaciones que aumentaron más fueron las de tejidos, minerales, maderas, carbón de piedra y productos misceláneos. La clasificación de los artículos importados fué como sigue:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.	Aumento.
Tejidos	$20, 175, 949	$14, 681, 764	$5, 494, 185
Hierro y sus manufacturas	8, 286, 425	8, 239, 055	47, 370
Sustancias vegetales	6, 309, 113	6, 370, 263	*a* 61, 150
Carbón de piedra, vidrio, piedra y loza	5, 661, 682	4, 266, 529	1, 395, 153
Maderas de todas clases	3, 522, 960	3, 066, 241	456, 719
Bebidas	3, 410, 022	4, 129, 104	*a* 719, 082
Productos químicos y tintes	1, 986, 084	2, 007, 215	*a* 21, 131
Aceite mineral y de otras clases	1, 812, 173	1, 332, 838	479, 335
Metales además de hierro	1, 644, 798	1, 662, 137	*a* 17, 339
Papel y sus manufacturas	1, 472, 016	1, 426, 158	45, 858
Sustancias animales	1, 001, 309	1, 062, 133	*a* 60, 824
Cuero y sus manufacturas	580, 744	439, 550	141, 194
Productos misceláneos	1, 589, 667	870, 388	719, 279
Totales	57, 452, 942	49, 553, 375	7, 899, 567

a Diminución.

En cuanto al comercio con países extranjeros, en las siguientes tablas se verán los totales, así como el aumento ó diminución en las exportaciones é importaciones.

EXPORTACIONES.

Destino.	1899.	1898.	Aumento.
Estados Unidos	$3, 201, 170	$2, 818, 987	$382, 183
Gran Bretaña	10, 923, 002	11, 284, 252	*a* 361, 250
Alemania	14, 658, 348	13, 159, 974	1, 498, 374
Francia	18, 281, 346	15, 859, 150	2, 322, 196
Italia	2, 094, 857	2, 884, 947	*a* 790, 090
Bélgica	11, 783, 129	9, 719, 564	2, 063, 565
Brasil	3, 261, 816	3, 057, 577	204, 239
Uruguay	2, 225, 366	2, 244, 374	*a* 19, 008
Holanda	853, 301	296, 934	556, 367
España	766, 014	142, 684	623, 330
Bolivia	279, 706	351, 195	*a* 71, 487
Chile	205, 754	1, 095, 498	*a* 889, 744
Paraguay	104, 196	80, 279	23, 917
Las Antillas	80, 202	95, 139	*a* 14, 937
Portugal	72, 184	11, 897	60, 587
Otros países	4, 096, 081	3, 969, 008	127, 073
Puertos de escala	16, 164, 290	14, 561, 666	1, 602, 624
Totales	89, 050, 762	81, 632, 825	7, 317, 937

IMPORTACIONES.

Estados Unidos	$6, 582, 249	$4, 431, 998	$2, 150, 251
Gran Bretaña	21, 294, 496	17, 800, 137	3, 494, 359
Alemania	7, 005, 125	5, 703, 359	1, 304, 766
Francia	5, 425, 416	4, 949, 982	475, 434
Italia	7, 265, 492	6, 424, 922	840, 570
Bélgica	4, 909, 365	4, 700, 491	208, 874
Brasil	2, 221, 300	2, 493, 410	*a* 272, 110
Uruguay	256, 745	257, 961	*a* 1, 216
Holanda	64, 565	50, 454	14, 111
España	1, 459, 073	1, 719, 396	*a* 260, 323
Bolivia	29, 033	26, 325	2, 708
Chile	65, 150	33, 873	31, 277
Paraguay	702, 810	875, 247	*a* 172, 437
Las Antillas	17, 282	15, 515	1, 767
Portugal	59, 355	29, 305	30, 050
Otros países	92, 486	41, 000	51, 486
Totales	57, 452, 942	49, 553, 375	7, 899, 567

a Diminución.

COLONIAS EN LA PROVINCIA DE CÓRDOBA.

La Oficina de Estadísticas de Córdoba ha publicado últimamente algunos informes interesantes relativos á las colonias en aquella provincia. Según dicha publicación, el Departamento de San Justo es de conformación plana, con muy pequeñas ondulaciones; tiene una sola quebrada, que es la Garabota, y posée algunos lagos pequeños. El Ferrocarril Central de Córdoba atraviesa por el centro del Departamento y la porción norte del lugar es considerada como la mejor para los colonos. La profundidad de la capa vegetal varía de 5 á 18 pulgadas y se encuentra agua á una profundidad de 5 á 55 pies de la superficie; esta profundidad extrema se encuentra en las regiones más altas de la parte norte. En la porción del sur la colonización ha sido retardada á causa de la falta de facilidades de transporte. Esto mismo es aplicable á la rica región que se extiende al noroeste de las colonias de San José, Santa Bárbara y Nueva Undine. Los únicos cultivos de importancia en la región de San Justo son el trigo y la linaza, la cual sólo se cultiva

por el fruto. El maíz produce abundantemente, pero el costo necesario para llevar el producto al mercado es tal que impide se le cultive en mayor escala y su cosecha basta para el consumo local. También se da la cebada, que no goza de demanda, y aumenta el número de pequeñas plantaciones de frutas y árboles de sombra.

En este Departamento hay cuatro colonias, que son Santa María, Eugenia, Galeno y General Deheza. Todas están situadas en buenos terrenos y debido al empleo de pozos semi-artesianos se ha podido adelantar mucho en la cría y en el fomento de la agricultura en general. El precio del terreno varía mucho y se cotiza desde $15 por hectárea, con tres ó cuatro años de crédito é interés al 12 por ciento, hasta $50 por hectárea en las mismas condiciones. El arrendamiento varía también, pero por lo general el arrendatario está obligado á entregar 12 por ciento de la cosecha al proprietario todos los años. En algunas de las colonias del sur el trigo es quizás el único cultivo, habiéndose abandonado el de la linaza, y el maíz sólo se cultiva en cantidad suficiente para el consumo; en otras de las colonias se cultiva más alfalfa que trigo, de suerte que se convertirán en colonias de cría, no porque no se puedan conseguir buenas cosechas, sino porque no dejan cuenta. En esta sección el precio de las tierras varía de $20 á $23 por hectárea, con tres ó cuartro años de crédito, sin interés.

BRASIL.

SERVICIO MENSUAL DE CORREOS CON FRANCIA.

Según dice el "Nouveau Monde" de 9 de setiembre de 1899, la Junta Directiva de la Marina Mercante Francesa en su última sesión aprobó las siguientes resoluciones:

(1) Referente al establecimiento de un servicio de correos y de comercio mensual entre Francia y las ciudades de Pará y Manaos.

(2) A favor del establecimiento de comunicación marítima regular entre Francia y la costa del Pacífico de la América del Sur, por medio de subvenciones á los buques destinados para hacer el tráfico con los países que allí se encuentran, pues desde que se liquidaron los negocios de la Compañía Marítima del Pacífico ha habido una seria diminución en el comercio.

Estas resoluciones fueron trasmitidas al Ministerio de la Marina, solicitando su informe favorable para el Ministerio de Comercio é Industria.

EXPORTACIONES DE CAUCHO POR EL PUERTO DE BELEM.

Durante el mes de junio, se exportaron por el puerto de Belem 1,332,245 kilógramos de caucho, de los cuales 791,289 fueron con destino á Europa y 540,956 para los Estados Unidos. En esta suma total están

comprendidos 533,931 kilógramos de caucho fino, 78,035 kilógramos de caucho ordinario, 284,496 de sernamby y 436,483 de caucho de inferior calidad, de los cuales 458,540 kilógramos son provenientes de Manaos.

La cantidad total de caucho exportado durante el primer semestre del presente año aparece ser 9,441,988 kilógramos, de los cuales 3,103,452 se enviaron á Europa y 6,338,536 á los Estados Unidos. La calidad del producto fué como sigue: Caucho fino, 5,271,167 kilógramos; caucho ordinario, 773,288; sernamby, 2,559,759, y caucho de inferior calidad, 897,774 kilógramos.

DESARROLLO DE ELECTRICIDAD EN SÃO PAULO.

La ciudad de São Paulo, que es la de mayor actividad comercial en el Brasil, queda como á 40 millas de la costa del Atlántico, á una altitud de 2,993 pies sobre el nivel del mar, y tiene una población que se calculó en 1899 en 225,000 habitantes. Últimamente se ha dicho que la asociación conocida con el nombre de "São Paulo Railway, Light and Power Company, Limited," que es un sindicato de capitalistas de los Estados Unidos y del Canadá, con un capital autorizado de $10,000,000, ha obtenido concesiones para desarrollar los intereses industriales de las líneas de ferrocarril, alumbrado y potencia eléctricos de la ciudad. Según dice el "New York Commercial" de 15 de setiembre, el agente de compras de dicho sindicato en la ciudad de Nueva York ha manifestado que cuando las diversas empresas para cuyo desarrollo se han obtenido franquicias estén terminadas, se habrán colocado en los Estados Unidos pedidos por más de $5,000,000.

Hasta la fecha se han hecho contratos por 40 millas de rieles de acero, por valor de $250,000; 65 carros de tranvía, avaluados en $5,000; curvas y crucetas especiales, por valor de $30,000; cable de alimentación aislado por $40,000; alambre para "trolley" por $15,000; alambre de acero por $2,000, y otra maquinaria por valor de $49,000; además madera de pino, máquinas para ascensores, gruas, carros, pernos, clavos, tubos y otros efectos necesarios para construir y hacer funcionar un ferrocarril eléctrico, cuyo valor no se menciona.

Mr. W. P. PLUMMER, el agente comprador, da los nombres de las casas con las cuales se han celebrado los contratos y dice que los materiales se despacharán para São Paulo tan pronto que estén terminados.

CUESTIÓN DE LÍMITES CON LA GUAYANA FRANCESA.

En el "Comptes Rendus" de la Sociedad de Geografía de Francia, publicado en marzo de 1899, hay un corto estudio de M. M. S. BROUSSEAU sobre el territorio en disputa entre Francia y el Brasil. Después de narrar el descubrimiento de oro en 1894, por CLEMENT TAMBA, un negro ignorante, y PIERRE VILLIERS, de Cayena, en el territorio en disputa, el autor hace una ligera reseña de la conformación física, la

geología y la población indígena del país. M. BROUSSEAU adquirió los conocimientos que posée en los viajes que hizó en 1894, durante los cuales logró determinar la posición de las cabeceras de los ríos que quedan entre el Oyapok, que forma el límite del Brasil y la Guayana Francesa, y el Amazonas. La formación geológica del territorio en disputa es semejante á la de Guayana Francesa, pero su clima es mucho más saludable. Los franceses no reclamaron el territorio en disputa hoy, hasta que se descubrió oro; y aunque no pueden pretender la ocupación efectiva, fundan los derechos que reclaman sobre el interior en ciertas cláusulas ambíguas del tratado de Utrecht. Hoy reclaman todo el territorio que está al sur de las Guayanas hasta el Río Branco. La Gran Bretaña y Holanda están interesadas también en el arreglo de la cuestión.

BELIZE (BRITISH HONDURAS).

FERROCARRIL PROPUESTO.

El único medio de comunicación con el interior que existe hoy en Belize es la navegación por canoas, en los numerosos ríos que bañan el territorio, y á caballo por caminos de recua que son los que existen. El 22 de julio de 1899, el Secretario de Estado Británico para las Colonias envió al Gobernador de Belize proposiciones hechas por R. W. PERKS, Miembro del Parlamento, referentes á la construcción y explotación de un ferrocarril en la colonia, incluyendo un muelle en Belize y la extensión de la línea hasta La Libertad, ó un lugar en sus cercanías, ó hasta Flores, en la Provincia de Petén de Guatemala.

Mr. PERKS pide la suma de £75,000, pagadera en cinco porciones de £15,000 cada una, al estar terminado cierto número de millas en cada sección del ferrocarril y listas para ser abiertas al tráfico, al mismo tiempo que la concesión de 200,000 acres de terreno, en porciones de 40,000 acres, á medida que cada una de las secciones de la línea esté terminada y abierta al tráfico. La proposición de Mr. PERKS fué aceptada el 15 de agosto por el Consejo Legislativo, con la recomendación de que, si Mr. CHAMBERLAIN la aprobaba, debían comenzarse los trabajos á más tardar en febrero de 1900.

Mr. WILLIAM L. AVERY, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Belize, al informar al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington, el 22 de agosto, acerca de este asunto, dice que si la República de Guatemala permite que se construya la vía hasta Petén, habrá un gran comercio en caoba y palo de campeche en dicho distrito, y que en el interior de Belize se desarrollarán el cultivo de frutas y la agricultura en general, industrias que hoy están circunscritas á la costa. También añade que, aun cuando la referida proposición ha sido hecha por capitalistas ingleses, no es de dudarse que todo el equipo se compre en los Estados Unidos, porque los ferrocarriles que hoy funcionan en Honduras, Guatemala y Costa

Rica están montados con maquinaria y material rodante de los Estados Unidos, inovación que se efectuó en Costa Rica á expensas de los efectos extranjeros que allí se usaban. Mr. AVERY opina que cualquier proyecto ferrocarrilero aumentará el comercio de importación y de exportación entre Belize y los Estados Unidos.

CHILE.

INSTRUCCIONES IMPORTANTES PARA LOS EMBARCADORES.

La Cámara de Comercio Francesa de Santiago de Chile ha enviado recientemente á las diversas cámaras de comercio de Francia una comunicación, de la cual Mr JOHN C. COVERT, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en León, transmite una versión al inglés al Departamento de Estado de Wáshington, con fecha 8 de agosto de 1899, por considerarla de importancia para los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos que tengan relaciones de comercio con Chile. La comunicación en referencia dice así:

"Hoy la mayor parte de las casas francesas que comercian con Chile inscriben el nombre del verdadero comprador ó consignatario en los conocimientos de embarque, y por más que esto parezca ser lo más natural, no deja de ser arriesgado.

"Puede suceder que en el tiempo mediante entre el despacho de las mercancías y su llegada á Chile, haya cambiado la situación del comprador. En este caso el banco ó el agente encargado de remitir los documentos y que desée impedir la entrega de las mercancías, queda en una posición embarazosa, porque como los documentos están hechos en el nombre del consignatario ó comprador, ni aquellos, ni sus síndicos, en caso de haber hecho bancarota, tienen el derecho de embargar las mercancías en la aduana. Si la casa que ha hecho quiebra, ó su representante, no reclaman las mercancías, los empleados de la aduana las embargan y el vendedor, para obtener posesión de su propiedad, tendrá que entablar un proceso para anular el contrato, lo cual no es muy fácil, aparte de los gastos que ocasiona.

"Para evitar todo esto sólo es necesario que el embarcador observe las siguientes reglas:

"(1) Si los conocimientos de embarque se envían al comprador ó al consignatario contra giros aceptados, el mejor plan es hacer los giros á la orden de un banco, que los endose y los cambie por los giros aceptados.

"(2) Si no se exige la aceptación inmediata del giro, se puede entrar en arreglos con un banco, haciéndo el conocimiento de embarque en su nombre y empleándolo como intermediario. Ésto costará los gastos de una pequeña comisión, lo cual es más barato que perder las mercancías.

"Si los conocimientos de embarque han de ser remitidos al consignatario ó al comprador por un agente, es más seguro enviarlos directamente al agente.

"Si los embarcadores siguen estas indicaciones, se evitarán muchas sorpresas desagradables y dificultades, pues que en caso de bancarota nada podrá impedir el ejercicio de su derecho para obtener las mercancías."

EL FERROCARRIL TRASANDINO.

Es un hecho reconocido que el ferrocarril trasandino, que al principio se pensó que pasara por Uspallata, no tocará en ese lugar, debido á que si se hiciera así, el trabajo ocasionaría grandes gastos. Sin embargo, según el periódico "Süd-Amerikanische Rundschau," los ingenieros que trabajaron con la Comisión de Límites para establecer la línea definitiva entre Chile y la República Argentina, y que, por lo mismo, conocen á fondo las ramificaciones de las Cordilleras en la Provincia de Mendoza, opinan que al sur del paralelo 34 de latitud y de la montaña de Maipo hay muchos pasos por donde un ferrocarril podría construirse con bastante facilidad.

Al lado argentino de las montañas la vía férrea podría pasar por el valle de Yanja, y al lado chileno el camino más directo sería por el valle de Maipo. Los mencionados ingenieros chilenos aseguran que esta parte de la Cordillera de los Andes ofrece grandes facilidades para la construcción de ferrocarriles, y que los únicos obstáculos que se presentan están en Extravío y Mal Paso, porque el punto más elevado es solamente de 2,300 metros (7,546 pies) sobre el nivel del mar. Parece que los Gobiernos de Chile y de la República Argentina van á construir la parte de la vía férrea que á cada uno le corresponde. Se calcula que á Chile le costará la obra 14,000,000 de pesos en papel moneda, mientras que la República Argentina gastará sólamente 8,000,000 de pesos en una extensión mucho mayor. Se creeque cuando la nueva línea esté concluida, el viaje de Santiago á Buenos Aires se hará en cosa de cuarenta horas, y son incalculables los beneficios que ambos países reportarán de esta arteria de comunicación.

CUBA.

PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR EN LAS PROVINCIAS DE SANTA CLARA Y MATANZAS.

Según el informe del General JAMES H. WILSON, Comandante Militar de las Provincias de Santa Clara y Matanzas, la producción de azúcar es casi igual en ambas, alcanzando al 75 por ciento del producto total de este fruto en toda la isla, durante el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, y el 91 por ciento en el año fiscal anterior. En el año de 1899, 41 ingenios centrales había funcionando y 21 ingenios más que, aunque no funcionaban, estaban en perfecta condición. Durante la última guerra muchos de los grandes centrales pudieron conservarse, porque sus dueños pagaron á uno ú otro bando con el objeto de proteger sus

propiedades; ésto no obstante fueron destruidos 81 ingenios, aun cuando muchos de éstos no trabajaban y carecían de maquinaria moderna y casi estaban paralizados por la competencia que hubo entre el azúcar de caña y el de remolacha. Los ingenios que hoy funcionan están montados con maquinaria moderna y emplean procedimientos científicos, tienen capacidad suficiente para elaborar toda la caña que se pueda cosechar en dos ó tres años, y se crée que se pueden ensanchar con el objeto de aumentar el producto.

La propiedad de los ingenios que hay en las provincias es como sigue: En Santa Clara, 21 cubanos, 4 americanos y 1 español; en Matanzas, 29 cubanos, 20 españoles, 2 alemanes y 1 francés. Los jornales en los ingenios varían desde 40 centavos diarios á los peones hasta $1.75 á los operarios más hábiles. Éstos, por lo general, son españoles ó extranjeros. Los operarios mejores son cubanos, blancos ó de color, y en muchos ingenios hay chinos empleados en los ramos que requieren más cuidado que habilidad mecánica. El costo de la vida es, por lo general, como sigue: arroz, 6 centavos por libra; harina de maíz, 4 centavos; frijoles, 7 centavos; tasajo, 25 centavos. La mortalidad, debida á la reconcentración, parece haber sido como la séptima parte de la población total (354,000 en 1897) comparada con la mortalidad de la población de Matanzas, que alcanzó á una tercera parte. Esta diferencia se atribuye á las características del lugar y á que la población en Santa Clara está más distribuida, lo cual permitió en cierto modo á que sus habitantes escaparan la orden de reconcentración.

El General WILSON dice que con el nuevo impulso que ha recibido, la agricultura ha progresado rápidamente no obstante hallarse en circunstancias nada favorables, siendo notable la falta de animales domésticos. Cienfuegos, que es el principal puerto de mar de la Provincia de Santa Clara, posée una rada de primer orden que podría mejorarse para admitir en ella los buques de mayor calado hasta el muelle. Hay en la provincia 260 millas de ferrocarril, sin incluir los numerosos ramales que van á las plantaciones de azúcar. Los terrenos propios para este cultivo se cotizan de $3 á $60 por acre y varían en tamaño desde una caballería hasta colonias é ingenios, que contienen millares de acres. Según el General WILSON, el comprador extranjero tendrá una desventaja en el examen de los títulos, de la cual está exento el comprador del país, hasta que no se establezcan compañías responsables para que examinen todos los documentos de propiedad.

ECUADOR.

EXPORTACIÓN DE CAUCHO.

En un informe del Cónsul británico en Guayaquil, dícese que el aumento de la demanda por caucho ha vuelto á llamar la atención hacia este producto del Ecuador, que hoy se cosecha en los bosques del inte-

rior en lugares distantes de la costa, en donde su extracción se consideraba antes poco remunerativa á causa de los gastos necesarios para el transporte. En los últimos años, el valor del caucho crudo casi se ha duplicado, de modo que en las actuales circunstancias se gana en cosecharlo.

Dice el Cónsul que una gran cantidad del caucho que antes se enviaba á los Estados Unidos va hoy á Londres y otros puertos de Europa. Los precios á que se vende el caucho crudo en los puertos de embarque del Ecuador varían de £9 á £10 por quintal. En 1897, las exportaciones de caucho de Guayaquil alcanzaron á 590,400 libras, avaluadas en $229,831, moneda americana; en 1898, la cantidad exportada subió á 932,400 libras por valor de $454,192, lo que indica un aumento de cerca de 100 por ciento en el valor total del producto.

EL ARCO MERIDIANO EN QUITO.

En las sesiones celebradas en 1894 en la ciudad de Stuttgart, Alemania, por la Conferencia Internacional Geodésica, se aprobó la proposición hecha por uno de los delegados americanos de que, en la opinión de la conferencia, la medida del arco meridiano ecuatorial que pasa por los alrededores de Quito debía ser revisada con el mayor esmero posible, empleando para ello los métodos modernos. Hasta ahora se usan las medidas que á fines del siglo pasado tomaron los sabios franceses BOUGUER, LA CONDAMINE y GODIN. La Sociedad de Geografía de Francia adoptó la idéa y nombró una comisión para el estudio de la materia. Dicha comisión resolvió, en el enero de 1899, recomendar el proyecto á la consideración del Gobierno francés, indicando como el más conveniente un arco de 5 á 6 grados, para que los resultados se puedan comparar con los de las operaciones análogas que se están ejecutando en el Viejo Mundo. El Gobierno dió su consentimiento y anunció en el mes de mayo que la labor había sido encomendada á los Capitanes MAURAIN y LA COMBE, oficiales de experiencia de la Sección Geodésica del Servicio Geográfico, quienes se ocupan hoy de tomar las observaciones del caso.

GUATEMALA.

CONVENCIÓN DE MARCAS DE FÁBRICAS CON LA GRAN BRETAÑA.

La Oficina de Relaciones Extranjeras de la Gran Bretaña ha publicado un folleto (Tratados, serie número 16) que contiene la convención celebrada entre la Reino Unido y Guatemala relativa á marcas de fábrica que fué firmada en Guatemala el 20 de julio de 1898, y cuyas ratificaciones se cambiaron en la misma ciudad el 28 de julio de 1899. El documento es como sigue:

"Su Majestad la Reina del Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda, Emperatriz de la India, etc., y su Excelencia el Presidente de la

República de Guatemela, en el deseo de celebrar una convención para la protección recíproca de marcas de fábrica y de comercio, han nombrado al efecto sus Plenipotenciarios, a saber:

"Su Majestad la Reina del Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda, Emperatriz de la India, etc., al Señor Don JORGE BIRT JENNER, su Ministro Residente en Centro América.

"Y Su Excelencia el Presidente de la República de Guatemala, al Doctor Don FRANCISCO ANGUIANO, Secretario de Estado y del Despacho de Gobernación y Justicia, y encargado del de Relaciones Exteriores;

"Quienes, después de haberse comunicado sus Plenos Poderes, hallados en buena y debida forma, han convenido en los artículos siguientes:

"ARTICULO I. Los ciudadanos ó súbditos de cualquiera de las Partes Contratantes gozarán, en los dominios y posesiones de la otra, de los mismos derechos que en ellos se conceden en la actualidad ó que más tarde sean concedidos á sus nacionales en todo lo que se relacione con marcas de fábrica y comercio, etiquetas industriales y modelos.

"Para obtener el goce de estos derechos debe cumplirse recíprocamente con las formalidades que establezcan las leyes de los respectivos países.

"ART. II. Las estipulaciones de la presente convención serán extensivas á todas las colonias y posesiones exteriores de Su Majestad Británica, con excepción de India, Canadá, Terranova, el Cabo de Buena Esperanza, Natal, Nueva Gales del Sur, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Australia del Sur, Australia Occidental y Nueva Zelandia.

"Queda entendido, sin embargo, que las estipulaciones de la presente convención se harán aplicables á cualquiera de las colonias ó posesiones arriba mencionadas, en favor de las cuales el Representante de Su Majestad Británica haya hecho una notificación con el objeto mencionado al Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Guatemala, dentro de un año contado desde la fecha del canje de las ratificaciones de la presente convención.

"ART. III. La presente convención será ratificada cuanto antes sea posible, y estará en vigor durante cinco años que comenzarán á correr un mes después del canje de las ratificaciones, que se efectuará en la ciudad de Guatemala. Sin embargo, si un año antes de expirar este plazo ninguna de las dos Partes Contratantes anunciare á la otra, mediante declaración oficial, su intención de hacer cesar sus efectos, dicha convención continuará siendo obligatoria durante un año después de hecha la declaración antes mencionada."

RELACIONES COMERCIALES CON FRANCIA.

Según un informe presentado por el Cónsul francés en Guatemala, M. GOUBAUD, á su Gobierno, las relaciones comerciales que antes existían entre Francia y Guatemala llegaron á ser muy importantes. Los buques franceses, principalmente procedentes del puerto de Burdéos,

hacían viajes á los de Guatemala, llevando cargamentos completos y trayendo en su viaje de retorno café, caucho, maderas finas, etc. Hoy las compañías de navegación inglesas y alemanas llevan directamente, por vía del Estrecho de Magallanes, mercancías provenientes de Europa, y las que se envían por Colón y Panamá llegan á su destino en buques americanos, de suerte que ya en aquellas aguas no se ve el pabellon francés.

Durante el año de 1898, se importaron por los puertos de Guatemala 440,543 bultos de mercancías, con un valor declarado de 3,880,668 pesos; á Francia corresponde 9,966 bultos con un valor declarado de 217,337 pesos. Los Estados Unidos, á causa de su gran comercio de exportación con Guatemala, están representados por una cantidad casi igual á la mitad del total; Francia ocupa el cuarto lugar en la balanza del país y sus exportaciones consisten en su mayor parte de vinos y licores, coñac, drogas y medicinas, perfumería fina y artículos de fantasía; corresponde á Alemania el segundo lugar en las exportaciones de máquinas y artículos manufacturados y á Inglaterra el tercero, siendo el 50 por ciento de sus exportaciones compuesto de mercancías de lino y de algodón.

Francia exportaba antes para Guatemala una gran cantidad de artículos manufacturados y sin manufacturar, tales como efectos de fantasía de bronce y de cobre, publicaciones, drogas, etc., pero hoy se ve obligada á hacer frente á la competencia de los Estados Unidos, que es su rival en la exportación de esos mismos artículos.

Los centros principales de comercio en Guatemala, á donde van los comerciantes de los lugares circunvecinos, son Guatemala, Quezaltenango y Retalhulen.

EMPRÉSTITO DE BANCOS PARTICULARES AL GOBIERNO.

Avisan de San Francisco que con fecha 16 de agosto se ha recibido noticia de la ciudad de Guatemala sobre el arreglo celebrado por el Gobierno con cuatro bancos de aquella capital, mediante el cual le prestarán $2,500,000, que serán entregados por mensualidades de $200,000 cada una. Se dice que el Gobierno ha ofrecido excelentes garantías. Este empréstito aliviará, aunque sea temporalmente, la situación del erario. Los bancos están autorizados para hacer una emisión adicional de papel moneda equivalente á la suma en referencia.

MÉXICO.

LA INDUSTRIA DE TABACO.

El 14 de agosto de 1899, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la Gran Bretaña dió á luz el número 514 de las "Miscellaneous Series" de sus Informes Diplomáticos y Consulares, conteniendo las observaciones del Cónsul inglés en Veracruz respecto á la industria de tabaco

en México. Este informe está fechado á 21 de julio del año en curso, pero los datos estadísticos que en él se dan alcanzan solamente hasta el fin del año económico de 1898. Dice el Cónsul que hasta el año de 1897–98 no aumentó mucho la exportación de tabaco mexicano, pero que en aquella época hubo un aumento de más del 100 por ciento, tanto en la cantidad como en el valor del tabaco en rama que se exportó. Hubo, sin embargo, una diminución en la cantidad de tabaco labrado que se exportó, así como en su valor.

En el año de 1896–97 la exportación de tabaco en rama ascendió á 1,349,903 kilogramos, con un valor de $1,718,232 en moneda mexicana, y la de tabaco labrado fué de $1,001,859. En 1898 la exportación de tabaco en rama fué de 3,107,619 kilogramos, valorados en $3,563,620. La cantidad de tabaco labrado que en aquel año se exportó fué de 389,697 kilogramos, con un valor de $926,148. Los primeros datos obtenidos por el Cónsul corresponden al año económico de 1890, cuando la exportación de tabaco en rama ascendió á 627,800 kilogramos, valorados en $349,163, y la de tabaco labrado fué de 386,945 kilogramos, con un valor de $599,169.

Se dice que los dos principales centros de producción son San Andrés Tuxtla y el Valle Nacional. El producto del primero es de buena calidad y se vende á buenos precios, y el del segundo es de color claro y de poco peso, lo cual hace que á menudo se pague por él un precio muy elevado, debido a que es un tabaco excelente para capas. Con todo, la cosecha de tabaco está siempre sujeta á fluctuaciones, puesto que depende en mucho de la condición del tiempo, que con frecuencia ocasiona grandes perdidas. Los plantíos se hacen en México de setiembre á fines de octubre, y la cosecha se verifica en enero y febrero. Casi todos los que se dedican á la manufactura de cigarros son también cultivadores de tabaco, y éstos, así como otros que negocian en el mismo artículo, hacen adelantos á los tabacaleros, de suerte que la exportación de un año consiste del producto sobre el cual se han avanzado cantidades el año anterior.

En toda época son escasos los operarios, y aquéllos que se encuentran son generalmente de una clase inferior; sin embargo, la gran cantidad de españoles que llegó de Cuba durante la guerra en la isla dió mucho aliento á los cultivadores. Desde que terminó la lucha, la mayor parte de estos españoles ha regresado á Cuba. La industria ha menester de operarios de toda clase, y no es posible obtener éstos en suficiente número. Dice el Cónsul que hay que valerse de las autoridades para proveerse de operarios, y que ésto exige adelantos de dinero, gastos de transporte y pérdidas ocasionadas por la deserción. Los salarios son nominalmente moderados, pero si se toma en consideración la calidad inferior del trabajo, los resultados obtenidos y la constante vigilancia que se necesita á fin de impedir las deserciones, los operarios son costosos y poco satisfactorios. Los operarios forzados tienen que trabajar bajo pena de prisión, y en muchos casos es preciso encerrarlos

para evitar que se deserten. Su alimentación consiste principalmente en frijoles y tortillas. En el Valle Nacional los trabajadores son generalmente forzados que vienen de la ciudad de México y de otros distritos en la vecindad, pero rara vez dan resultados satisfactorios.

En 1898 la exportación de tabaco recibió gran impulso con motivo de la revolución en Cuba, y ciertas clases de tabacos mexicanos fueron importadas á Tampa, Cayo Hueso y otras partes de Florida para usar las como tripa y capas. Ésto se atribuyó á una tentativa de anticiparse á los efectos del nuevo arancel de los Estados Unidos, y dió en México impulso temporal al negocio de tabaco. Los precios se elevaron, la exportación aumentó y el capital y el trabajo se esforzaron para producir mayores cosechas. El cambio en los derechos de aduana, la facilidad de disponer del artículo almacenado en Cuba, y el nuevo vigor dado al cultivo de tabaco en la isla, produjeron considerable baja en los precios, con lo cual se demostró que el tabaco mexicano no podía matener la posición que temporalmente había adquirido en los mercados de los Estados Unidos. La baja en los precios arruinó á muchas personas que se habían dedicado al cultivo de dicha planta. Los cultivadores se vieron en la imposibilidad de reembolsar los adelantos de dinero que se les habían hecho, mientras que los compradores se encontraron con grandes cantidades de que no podían disponer. Se cree que desde aquella época la producción ha vuelto á su condición normal, pero aun no se han publicado los datos oficiales correspondientes al año económico de 1899.

Opina el Cónsul que cuando se pueda disponer de la suficiente cantidad de brazos y de los medios más adecuados para el cultivo y preparación del artículo, se presentará buena ocasión de invertir considerable capital en este negocio, porque el tabaco de México es de buena calidad, y no hay razón alguna para que no llegue á ocupar un puesto elevado en los mercados del mundo. Los cigarros mexicanos deberían venderse á precios mejores que los que hoy obtienen, pero hasta la fecha no parecen gozar del favor del público. Hay considerable consumo de tabaco en el país, y el tráfico nacional es muy importante, estando protegido por altos derechos de importación.

IMPORTACIÓN DE CARBÓN DE PIEDRA Y COK.

El aumento de las importaciones de carbón de piedra y coke en México, sigue siendo digno de nota, según el "Coal Trade Journal" de setiembre 20. La cantidad importada en 1898 alcanzó á cerca de 598,000 toneladas, lo que indica un aumento de 30 por ciento sobre las importaciones de 1897. Ésto se debe, indudablemente, al número de empresas industriales nuevas que hay en la República y que, á causa de la escasez de leña, se ven obligadas á emplear carbón de piedra y coke en sus fábricas. En los ferrocarriles se usa casi exclusivamente panes de carbón comprimido en vez de leña. México importa carbón de los siguientes países: Estados Unidos, que envía más del 50 por ciento del total; la Gran Bretaña, que envía 33 por ciento, y el resto lo

suministran Australia, Bélgica y Alemania. Las importaciones de carbón de esta última van en aumento y hacen seria competencia á los productos de Australia y Bélgica. El carbón de Australia llega casi todo á los puertos de la costa del Pacífico, de donde se envía en pequeñas cantidades á las fábricas que se encuentran á corta distancia de dicha costa. La mayor parte de este carbón se emplea para el abasto de los buques que hacen escala en los puertos del Pacífico.

NICARAGUA.

VALIOSOS RESTOS PREHISTÓRICOS.

Algunos miembros de la Comisión Científica enviada hace algunos meses por el Gobierno danés á hacer estudios arqueológicos en la América Central, estuvieron últimamente en los Estados Unidos, de regreso á Europa. Los más notables entre ellos son el Dr. JOEANNES NEUHAUS y el Profesor HALFAU BORRING, ambos de Copenhague. Estos dos hombres de ciencias se manifestaron tan entusiastas acerca de sus descubrimientos, de los cuales llevan como muestras 20 toneladas, que van á solicitar que se les permita regresar á Nicaragua á continuar sus investigaciones, porque dicho país es muy rico en restos prehistóricos.

El Dr. NEUHAUS dijo que, entre otros descubrimientos, es muy notable el que establece cierto vínculo entre la civilización de Nicaragua y la del Perú. Hace años el Barón VON HUMBOLDT descubrió y describió una clase de cemento usado por los albañiles de la época de los Incas, y el cual se creía que era desconocido en otras partes del mundo. El Dr. NEUHAUS encontró muestras de la misma sustancia en las orillas del Río Rama, en Nicaragua. La Comisión visitó varias ruinas cerca de la costa y á lo largo de este río, y examinó varias de las antiguas minas, de las cuales sacaban los Toltecas sus fabulosas riquezas. También descubrieron los exploradores montones de tierra ó sean *mounds*, que contenían muchos restos prehistóricos.

Los *mounds* que se han encontrado en la parte septentrional de Europa han demostrado ser un campo muy valioso para los estudios etnológicos, y es con el objeto de hacer nuevas excavaciones en los ya citados restos de la civilización americana que los sabios daneses desean volver á la América Central. Los objetos que se encuentran dentro de esos montones están casi siempre rotos, pero son precisamente aquéllos que muestran haber estado en uso los que dan mejor idea de la civilización de los indios. No se encontraron herramientas, pero las hachas de piedra y otros instrumentos que se hallaron son tan admirablemente hechos como lo eran los instrumentos de bronce de los Aztecas, lo cual demuestra que los antiguos habitantes de Nicaragua vivían á fines de la edad de piedra. Los mencionados *mounds* fueron descubiertos en Punta Kukra, cerca de Bluefields.

PERÚ.

INDUSTRIAS MANUFACTURERAS.

Las industrias manufactureras del Perú deberían ocupar en la vida económica del país una posición más importante de la que parecen concederle los informes estadísticos. Prosperan allí muchas fábricas que constituyen un elemento vital de primer orden y son dignas de notarse, entre otras, varias de calzado, la más importante de las cuales es el establecimiento Gagliardi, que emplea como 100 operarios y un gran número de máquinas. Siguen en orden varias fábricas de corbatas y algunas fundiciones, que constituyen, estas últimas, un ramo de alta importancia en las industrias del país, entre otras las fundiciones de "Piedra Liza," con 70 operarios, y las de "Schofield" and "Ashford," las cuales están dirigidas por ingleses. Entre las fábricas de biscochos, la más antigua es la de FIELD & CO., y en el ramo de curtiduría es de importancia especial la de A. LABROUSSE Y CÍA., que produce un becerillo encerado de buena calidad.

En Lima hay varias fábricas de muebles, siendo las principales las de la Compañía Malherbe y la Compañía Hechkoppler, cada de las cuales emplea como 50 operarios. La madera que usan es en su mayor parte cedro americano é importan nogal de los Estados Unidos y de Europa. Las maderas que se emplean para fabricar enchapados son procedentes de Europa, por lo general. Los molinos de harina establecidos en Lima pertenecen á italianos ó á españoles, y el trigo que se beneficia en ellos procede generalmente de Chile, mientras que la harina se emplea para el consumo local, exportándose muy poco para Guayaquil. La industria de la preparación de pastas italianas ha adquirido cierta actividad, debido al gran consumo de este artículo que hace la colonia italiana.

No existen en el Perú fábricas de productos farmacéuticos; pero en algunas droguerías de Lima preparan especialmente algunos de estos artículos. En Lima hay varias fabricas de jabón, unos cuantos aserraderos y depósitos de madera, algunas de las cuales tales como pino, cedro, etc., son importadas de Noruega y de los Estados Unidos.

La industria de la elaboración del tabaco es notable en Lima, empleando en las diferentes fábricas que allí existen más de 3,000 operarios en la elaboración de cigarros y mayor número en la de cigarrillos. En la misma ciudad hay nueve curtiembres, dos de los cuales están dirigidas por franceses, y hay también varios telares de algodón y de lana. El más importante de estos últimos es el de Santa Catalina, fundado con capitales peruanos bajo la dirección de italianos.

También hay otros establecimientos de menor importancia para la fabricación de escobas, chocolate, efectos para billares, aceites, pianos, sal, fósforos, etc.

LA PRODUCCIÓN DE COBRE.

El haberse suspendido la acuñación libre de la plata hace dos años, deprimió la explotación de minas de este metal, y en muchas de ellas han cesado los trabajos. En 1898, se extrajeron por la primera vez en la historia de la mina de Cerro de Pasco, que ha sido esencialmente productora de plata, minerales de cobre, que fueron enviados á Inglaterra como un experimento, cuando el precio del cobre puro era de £52 la tonelada. Las ventas fueron tan satisfactorias, que antes de que terminara el año, había de 50 á 60 mineros ocupados en la exportación de minerales de cobre. En la actualidad, la producción es como de 3,000 toneladas por mes, de las cuales dos terceras partes se quedan en Cerro de Pasco, por falta de medios de transporte, como que apenas 1,000 toneladas pueden ser llevadas mensualmente al ferrocarril de Oroya, y por la conducción de éstas se paga un promedio de £8 por tonelada.

De Oroya estos minerales son llevados por ferrocarril á la costa, mediante el pago de £1 por tonelada, y por último son embarcados con destino á Liverpool ó Swansea á un costo de £3 por tonelada aproximadamente. Todos los minerales que ahora se benefician son de la calidad más rica, y producen de 35 á más de 40 por ciento de metal puro. El precio medio que alcanzan en Liverpool es de £25 por tonelada. La construcción del ferrocarril de Oroya á Cerro de Pasco dará gran desarrollo á la industria de cobre, reduciendo los gastos sobre cada tonelada que se envía á Liverpool, que ahora son de £14, á £7 ó quizá menos.

Se calcula que la cantidad de mineral que se puede considerar lista para la explotación es de 5,000,000 á 6,000,000 de toneladas. Viene á corroborar esta afirmación el hecho de que la extracción de dicho mineral cuesta muy poco, porque á pesar de los métodos primitivos que se emplean, no excede de 6 á 8 chelines por tonelada.

EXPORTACIÓN DE HOJAS DE COCA Y COCAINA CRUDA.

Según un informe consular francés, recientemente publicado, la industria del comercio de cocaina y hojas de coca ha aumentado mucho en el Perú últimamente. De 1891 á 1897 se verificaron las siguientes exportaciones, en kilógramos: Hojas de coca—1891, 128,543; 1882, 388,465; 1893, 390,955; 1894, 372,360; 1895 y 1896, ninguna; 1897, 493,677. Cocaina cruda—1891, 3,216; 1892, 4,550; 1893, 2,357; 1894, 4,716; 1895 y 1896, ninguna; 1897, 5,207. La mayor parte se exportó para Hamburgo y de allí para Francia. Se trata de establecer una línea de vapores que haga la carrera entre el Perú y el Havre, de modo que el comercio entre los dos países sea más directo.

EL SALVADOR.

IMPORTACIÓN DE MONEDA DE PLATA.

Con fecha 9 de agosto del año corriente, Mr. JOHN JENKINS, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en San Salvador, transmitió al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington la traducción de un decreto gubernativo, promulgado el 29 de julio próximo pasado. El decreto original dice así:

"ARTÍCULO. 1°. Se prohibe la introducción de toda clase de moneda de plata, ya sea en pesos fuertes ó en fracciones, que tenga menos de novecientos milésimos de fino y de peso legal.

"ART. 2°. Los Administradores de Aduanas y de Rentas vigilarán y harán vigilar, bajo su estricta responsabilidad, el cumplimiento del artículo anterior, decomisando la plata que se trate de introducir, de ley menor á la mencionada.

"ART. 3°. Se excita á los Gobernadores y Comandantes departamentales para que impidan la introducción de la moneda en referencia.

"ART. 4°. Se gratificará con un 25 por ciento á los que denuncien la importacion de la moneda prohibida en virtud de este decreto, y con un 10 por ciento a los empleados públicos que la decomisen.

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"ART. 6°. El presente decreto empezará á regir desde el día de su publicación."

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 489 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de agosto de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los ocho meses que terminaron en agosto de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Ministerio de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de agosto, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en octubre.

EXPORTACIONES DE MADERA PARA LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

Un corresponsal del "Lumber Trade Journal" de fecha 15 de setiembre dice que la ciudad de Mobile, Alabama, ha tenido un año muy nota-

ble y que la estación de 1898–99 pasará á la historia de la localidad como la más productiva para el comercio de madera desde que se comenzó á explotar esta industria, que hoy es una de las principales del puerto.

El volumen de los negocios hechos durante la estación arroja un balance de cerca de 1,000,000 de pies en exceso del año de 1897–98; las exportaciones para el extranjero han sido como 7,000,000 de pies más que en aquella estación. Uno de los rasgos más notables de este año ha sido la vuelta al puerto de los grandes negocios que en años anteriores hacían con él Sud América y Cuba. La quinta parte del volumen de los negocios ha sido con Cuba y la América latina, que monta á 40,000,000 pies en números redondos. Las exportaciones para la América latina fueron como sigue: México, 4,226,855 pies; Cuba, 15,036,691; República Argentina, 18,440,629; Uruguay, 6,286,889; Colombia, 1,103,397; Honduras, 500,000; Belize, 500,000. Las exportaciones de madera dura alcanzaron á 213,290 pies cúbicos. También se exportaron para la República Argentina 975,000 estacas y 125,000 crucetas para México.

CARBÓN PARA LOS BUQUES DE GUERRA.

Los gobiernos extranjeros han creído siempre que el carbón de Cardiff, Gales, es el mejor que existe. Últimamente, sin embargo, según el periódico el "Nautical Gazette," correspondiente al 7 de setiembre de 1898, el Almirantazgo francés ha estado haciendo investigaciones por medio del Teniente FARAMOND, Agregado Naval de la Embajada de Francia en Wáshington, y ha llegado á la conclusión de que el carbón que sale de algunas minas de los Estados Unidos es superior á cualquier otro para uso en los barcos de guerra. Aunque M. FARAMOND está convencido de que el carbón de los Estados Unidos produce más humo que el de Gales, cree que arde mejor, que produce vapor con más prontitud y, lo que es de suma importancia, que no se hace escoria, dejando, además, menos ceniza que los otros. El carbón que se usó en los buques de guerra americanos durante el reciente conflicto con España dió entera satisfacción, y no reconoce superior en cuanto á mantener un fuego brillante, arder económicamente y producir vapor con rapidez. El periódico atrás mencionado opina que el uso de este carbón en las flotas extranjeras es simplemente una cuestión de tiempo.

EL MERCADO DE CAFÉ.

La cantidad de café existente en almacenes en los Estados Unidos el 3 de octubre de 1899, era de 1,355,611 sacos de 60 kilogramos cada uno, mientras que en la misma fecha en 1898 dicha cantidad era solamente de 963,943 sacos del mismo peso. La cantidad de café que el 1° de setiembre de 1899 estaba almacenada en todos los mercados del mundo era, según los últimos datos, de 7,659,544 sacos, mientras que en la misma fecha de 1898 era solamente de 6,905,340 sacos. Las ventas

totales de café de todas clases en los Estados Unidos durante el mes de setiembre fueron de 529,966 sacos, contra 370,164 sacos durante el mismo mes en 1898. El mercado continúa firme y el precio nominal sobre facturas, en Nueva York, del café número 7 de Río es de 5.50 centavos la libra, ya sea que haya llegado ó esté por llegar.

MAQUINARIA PARA FABRICAR AZÚCAR EN HAWAII.

Después de una activa competencia, por parte de los fabricantes ingleses y alemanes, la compañía llamada "The Buffalo Forge Co.," de Buffalo, Nueva York, ha recibido un contrato por cuatro motores verticales de alta velocidad y 50 caballos de fuerza y dos aparatos idénticos de 75 caballos de fuerza, para el Hawaii; también enviará la compañía un aventador de presión á conexión directa y un generador para 300 luces. Esta maquinaria es para la nueva plantación que la "American Sugar Co." tiene en la isla de Molokai. Dicha plantación contiene cerca de 93,000 acres de terrenos extremadamente fértiles, entre ellos una porción de 8,000 acres de terrenos fertilísimos para el cultivo de la caña, situados á 400 pies bajo el nivel del mar. Se espera que estos terrenos produzcan alrededor de 8 toneladas por acre. Se dice que los gastos que esta plantación cuando esté en perfecto desarrollo alcanzará á la enorme suma de $1,700,000, de los cuales $400,000 se habrán gastado en maquinaria.

ARADOS DE VAPOR EN HAWAII.

Con fecha 17 de agosto de 1899, Mr. WILLIAM HAYWOOD, Cónsul-General de los Estados Unidos, en una comunicación dirigida al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington, dice que pocos días antes se desembarcó en Honolulu un juego de arados de vapor, fabricados por la casa de O. S. KELLY, de Springfield, Ohio, para la "American Sugar Co." Estos arados son los primeros de su clase fabricados en los Estados Unidos, pues los que hasta ahora se habían hecho allí no son de sistema de cable, sino que cada uno funcionaba por medio de la máquina que arastraba el arado.

Hasta ahora todos los arados de vapor se importaban de Escocia, á causa de lo barato de su precio y porque en los Estados Unidos no había quien fabricara esta clase de instrumentos. El juego de arados cuesta $20,000 y fué entregado cuarenta días antes de lo que hubiera sido posible si se hubiera comprado en Escocia. Mr. HAYWOOD dice que se calcula que durante los tres próximos años se necesitarán en las plantaciones nuevas de 20 á 30 juegos de arados, y si los que se acaban de recibir son satisfactorios los otros se comprarán también en los Estados Unidos.

INFORME OFICIAL SOBRE LAS COSECHAS.

El informe de la Oficina de Estadísticas del Departamento de Agricultura, correspondiente á octubre, muestra que la condición media del maíz el 1° de dicho mes era de 82.7, contra 85.2 el 1° de setiembre de

1899, 82 el 1° de octubre de 1898, y 81.9 que fué el promedio en octubre durante los últimos diez años. No ocurrió ningún cambio notable en el mes de setiembre en los principales estados productores de maíz.

Mientras no se hayan recibido de los agricultores los informes usuales, ni se haya hecho una investigación cuidadosa sobre las condiciones existentes en los principales estados productores de trigo, tanto de primavera como de invierno, no se hará ningún cálculo sobre la producción de este grano por acre de terreno.

El cálculo preliminar de la producción de avena por acre es de 30.7 *bushels*, contra 27.8 *bushels* en 1898, y 25.8 *bushels*, promedio durante los últimos diez años. En cuanto á la calidad, el promedio es de 89.5, contra 84.5 el año pasado, y 87.6 en 1897.

El cálculo preliminar de la producción de cebada por acre es de 27 *bushels*, contra 21.6 *bushels* en 1898, y 23 *bushels*, promedio durante los últimos diez años. Por lo que hace á la calidad, el promedio es de 88.4, contra 90.6 el año pasado, y 87.6 en 1897.

El cálculo preliminar de la producción de centeno por acre es de 14.4 *bushels*, contra 15.6 *bushels* en 1898, y 13.7, que ha sido el término medio durante diez años. Respecto á la calidad, el promedio es de 90, contra 90.2 el año pasado, y 92.7 en 1897.

La condición media del trigo sarraceno es de 70.2, contra 75.2 el 1° de setiembre de 1899, 76.2 el 1° de octubre de 1898, y 84.2, el promedio en octubre durante los últimos diez años.

La condición media de las patatas el 1° de octubre era de 81.7, contra 86.3 el 1° de setiembre de 1899, 72.5 el 1° de octubre de 1898, y 73.7, el promedio durante octubre en los últimos diez años.

Los informes relativos á la caña de azúcar eran menos favorables que los correspondientes al 1° de setiembre de 1899. Se observa una pequeña mejoría en la condición del arroz y del tabaco.

El informe muestra que la condición media del algodón era de 62.4, contra 68.5 el 1° de setiembre de 1899, 75.4 el 1° de octubre de 1898, y 73.5, que ha sido el promedio en octubre durante los últimos diez años.

EL REPRESENTANTE DE MÉXICO EN CHICAGO.

El General Don PORFIRIO DÍAZ, Presidente de México, fué invitado especialmente á asistir á la celebración que se verificó en Chicago del 7 al 10 de octubre, con motivo de la colocación de la piedra angular de la nueva oficina de correos. Asistieron á dicha celebración el Presidente de los Estados Unidos y el Gobernador-General del Canadá. Se esperaba que el Presidente DÍAZ se encontrara presente á fin de que pudiera observar por sí mismo el respeto y admiración que el pueblo de los Estados Unidos siente por él y por su administración, y para que los lazos de amistad y simpatía que unen á las dos Repúblicas se estrechasen más, si fuese posible. El General DÍAZ manifestó muchos deseos de hallarse presente, y había hecho los preparativos preliminares con tal objeto, cuando se convenció de que no le sería posible realizar el

viaje. El Señor Don IGNACIO MARISCAL, Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, fué enviado en lugar del General Díaz, y se le hicieron todos los honores debidos á su carácter y rango. El Señor MARISCAL se ha mostrado digno representante de su país y de su Gobierno. Á pesar de esto, el pueblo de los Estados Unidos ha sentido mucho que el Presidente DÍAZ no haya podido venir en persona.

Con fecha 28 de setiembre, el Presidente DÍAZ dirigió una carta, expresando sus sentimientos, á Mr. CHARLES U. GORDON, Administrador de Correos de Chicago, que fué el Presidente de la Comisión que pasó á la ciudad de México con el objeto de invitar al General DÍAZ. La carta en referencia dice en sustancia lo que sigue:

"De conformidad con lo que ofrecí á V. y á sus honorables compañeros de comisión, cuando tan cortesmente fué presentada una invitación para las próximas festividades en la ciudad de Chicago, á poco de abrir el Congreso sus sesiones ordinarias solicité la licencia indispensable en mi caso para salir del territorio nacional. Desde luego me fué concedida, atendiendo, sin duda, á la notoria conveniencia de aprovechar esa ocasión para estrechar y robustecer las amistosas relaciones entre nuestros países.

"Nada parecía oponerse á la realización de mis deseos, ya antes manifestados, de corresponder con mi pronta aceptación á las bondadosas instancias con que he sido invitado.

"Sin embargo, hoy por desgracia los contrarían, entre otras consideraciones, la de que durante mi ausencia motivos de delicadeza de parte de mi sustituto y los miembros todos del Gabinete, los harían abstenerse de despachar algunos graves negocios pendientes en la actualidad y cuya suspensión no dejaría de causar algunos perjuicios.

"Por otra parte, la salud de mi esposa ha sufrido últimamente una penosa alteración que, si bien no parece de graves consecuencias, en opinión de los médicos puede prolongarse, lo cual me inspira el temor de cualquier accidente inesperado.

"Estos motivos me obligan, bien á pesar mío, á no usar de la licencia que me ha concedido el Congreso, y á suplicar á V. se sirva excusarme con el señor Gobernador de Illinois, con el señor Presidente Municipal de Chicago, con todas y cada una de las personas que tan bondadosamente me han invitado y á quienes quedo profundamente reconocido por su exquisita finura y cortesía. Jamás olvidaré la honra que personalmente me han dispensado, ni la consideración que han mostrado por México al invitarme, como lo han hecho esta vez, con demostraciones excepcionalmente halagüeñas y expresivas.

"Mas ya que no me es posible asistir en persona, he designado para que me represente en la gran festividad de Chicago el próximo día 9, al señor Don IGNACIO MARISCAL, Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, nombrado últimamente por el Congreso para sustituirme durante mi proyectada ausencia."

VENEZUELA.

LAUDO DEL TRIBUNAL DE ARBITRAMENTO.

El laudo del Tribunal de Arbitramento en la cuestión de límites entre la Guayana Británica y la República de Venezuela fué publicado en París, donde se verificaron las sesiones de dicho Tribunal, el 3 de octubre del año corriente. Esto pondrá fin, probablemente, á una controversia que ha durado más de medio siglo y que ha estado á punto de producir un conflicto.

El territorio en disputa se extendía desde el río Esequibo, al oriente, hasta las inmediaciones de los ríos Caroni y Orinoco al oeste, y del Oceano Atlántico hasta la frontera del Brasil al sur. Venezuela reclamaba la línea del Esequibo, que se dice era el límite primitivo entre las colonias de España y de Holanda. Por otra parte, el Gobierno británico sostenía que la línea debía comenzar en Punta Barima, á la desembocadura del Orinoco, y correr de allí hacia el sudoeste y oeste, casi paralela al Orinoco, y á una distancia de 40 á 60 millas de este río, hasta Upata. De este punto, la línea debía seguir en dirección meridional por el valle del Caroni, muy inmediata á este río, y después hacia el sudeste hasta la montaña Roraima y la frontera del Brasil.

La pretensión de Inglaterra se fundaba en el hecho de que, tanto en 1781 como en 1796, cuando la Gran Bretaña tomó posesión de las colonias holandesas, las autoridades inglesas fijaron el límite occidental de sus posesiones por medio de una línea que comenzaba en un punto al oeste de Punta Barima, arriba del Orinoco, y seguía después la vertiente entre los valles del Orinoco y del Esequibo. En 1814 la Gran Bretaña obtuvo de Holanda, por medio de un tratado, derecho al territorio conquistado, cuyos límites eran, según se decía, los mencionados atrás. En 1840, Sir ROBERT SCHOMBURGK fué comisionado para establecer una línea divisoria entre Venezuela y la Guayana británica. Según dice Lord SALISBURY, Sir ROBERT recomendó que se llegara á un arreglo, mediante el cual la Gran Bretaña renunciaría á sus pretensiones á una línea fronteriza que se extendiese mucho hacia el interior, á trueque de que Venezuela la reconociera formalmente su derecho á Punta Barima.

El resultado de todo esto fué la famosa "Línea Schomburgk," que de la boca del río Barima se dirige hacia el sur hasta la montaña Roraima, sin seguir el curso de ningún río ó monte, ni otra línea natural. El Gobierno venezolano protestó contra esta línea, por cuyo motivo el de la Gran Bretaña declaró que aquello no había sido más que una tentativa, y ordenó que se removieran los jalones. Lord SALISBURY, sin embargo, declaró que "dicha concesión se había hecho en la inteligencia precisa de que la Gran Bretaña no renunciaba en manera alguna al derecho que reclamaba relativamente á la mencionada línea." A continuación, Lord ABERDEEN propusó una línea que corriera desde la

desembocadura del río Moroco, con dirección oeste y sudoeste, hasta la confluencia de los ríos Cuyuni y Yuruari, y de ese punto, á lo largo del Cuyuni, aguas arriba, hasta la montaña Roraima. En contestación, Venezuela propusó que se tirara una línea recta desde la boca del río Moroco hasta las cabeceras del Esequibo, que coincidiera con el meridiano 59 de longitud. Entonces el Gobierno británico volvió á sus pretensiones respecto de la línea de Schomburgk.

Más tarde Lord GRANVILLE propusó una línea que partiera de la boca del Barima, continuando hasta la confluencia de los ríos Acarabisi y Cuyuni, y siguiera de allí la línea propuesta por ABERDEEN. Finalmente, la Gran Bretaña retiró las "concesiones" que antes había hecho. Los documentos relacionados con este caso lo han convertido en una de las más voluminosas controversias internacionales que jamás se han sometido á arbitramento. El alegato de Inglaterra y su réplica constan de once grandes tomos, un atlas y un número considerable de mapas sueltos, mientras que los argumentos de Venezuela se componen de seis grandes volúmenes y tres atlas. Los Gobiernos contendientes convinieron, el 2 de febrero de 1897, en someter sus diferencias á un tribunal arbitral, y el tratado correspondiente fué firmado en la ciudad de Wáshington, pero el tribunal no se reunió hasta el 15 de julio de 1899.

El laudo que, según se asegura, mereció unánime aprobación, fué leído por M. DE MARTENS, que era el quinto árbitro y el presidente del tribunal. El laudo indica que la línea divisoria será casi igual á la de Schomburgk. Los únicos puntos de diferencia serán que, después de apartarse del río Barima, seguirá el curso de algunos pequeños ríos y arroyos, en vez de continuar á través del país. Según se ha comunicado por telégrafo, el laudo del tribunal dice así:

"Los infrascritos, por las presentes damos y publicamos la decisión que determina y sentencia las cuestiones que nos fueron sometidas por el Tribunal y de conformidad con el arbitraje, decidimos, declaramos y sentenciamos definitivamente, que la línea fronteriza de la colonia de la Guayana Británica y de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, es como sigue:

"Partiendo de la costa en Punta Playa, la frontera seguirá en línea recta hasta la confluencia del Barima y el Kaituma; de aquí seguirá el cauce (thalweg) de este último, hasta las cabeceras del río Corentino (llamado también Cutari); de allí partirá hasta la confluencia del Haiowa y el Amacuro, siguiendo el cauce (thalweg) de éste hasta sus cabeceras en los llanos de Imataca; de aquí seguirá en dirección sudoeste á lo largo de la sierra más alta de las montañas de Imataca hasta el punto más alto de la cadena de Imataca, frente á las cabeceras del Barima y la cadena principal de las montañas de Imataca; de aquí, en dirección al sudeste hasta las cabeceras del Acarabisi, siguiendo el cauce de este río, hasta el Cuyuni, cuya ribera setentrional ha de seguir en dirección al occidente, hasta llegar á la confluencia del Cuyuni y el Wenamu; de aquí seguirá el cauce del Wenamu hasta el extremo

occidental de sus cabeceras, y de allí en línea recta hasta la cumbre del Monte Roraima, y de allí hasta las cabeceras del Cotinga.

"De este punto la frontera seguirá el cauce del Cotinga hasta su confluencia con el Takutu y de allí seguirá el cauce de este río hasta su cabecera; de aquí seguirá en línea recta hasta el extremo occidental de los montes Acarai, cuya cumbre más elevada seguirá hasta llegar á las cabeceras del Corentino, de donde partirá siguiendo el curso del río.

"Queda estipulado que la frontera demarcada aquí deja á salvo y no perjudica en manera alguna las cuestiones que hoy existan ó que puedan suscitarse en lo adelante entre la Gran Bretaña y la República del Brasil ó entre la República del Brasil y Venezuela. Al establecer los antedichos límites los árbitros juzgan y deciden que, en tiempo de paz, los ríos Amacuro y Barima estarán abiertos para la navegación de la marina mercante de todas las naciones, con la debida reserva, por lo que respecta á disposiciones equitativas, y al pago de derechos de faro y otros impuestos análogos, á condición de que los derechos que impongan Venezuela y la Guayana Británica á los buques que navegan en las aguas de las porciones de los ríos que ambas posean respectivamente, serán de acuerdo con la tarifa que rija á los buques venezolanos é ingleses. Estas tarifas no excederán á las que imponga cualquier otro país."

El laudo se pronuncia también á condición de que ni Venezuela ni la Guayana británica graven con derechos de aduana las mercancías que lleven los navíos, buques ó botes que naveguen por estos ríos; derechos que sólo se habrán de imponer á las mercancías que se desembarquen en territorio venezolano ó territorio de la Guayana británica, respectivamente.

EL CULTIVO DEL HENEQUÉN.

Junto con una comunicación dirigida al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington, con fecha 5 de agosto de 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Maracaibo, envió una copia de un contrato para el cultivo del henequén en la República, el cual no solamente es de importancia para Venezuela, sino también para México y los Estados Unidos. Dicho documento dice en sustancia lo que sigue:

"H. PINANGO LARA se compromete á establecer en Venezuela el cultivo del henequén y á explotarlo con la maquinaria más perfecta. El Gobierno nacional se compromete, por su parte, á poner á su disposición los terrenos necesarios en los stados de Zulia, Falcón y Lara, mediante el pago anual de 10 bolívares ($1.93) por hectárea. También se otorga el derecho de cultivar otras plantas textiles en dichos terrenos. El contratista se compromete á traer al país los operarios extranjeros que sean necesarios, los cuales gozarán de todos los beneficios que les concede la ley sobre inmigracion. Se permite al contratista la introducción, libre de derechos, de toda la maquinaria, herramientas, instrumentos y semillas que necesite. El 10 por ciento de todas las semillas que se importen será entregado al Departamento de

Agricultura del Estado para su distribución. La empresa estará exenta de todo impuesto, pero el Gobierno recibirá cada año el 5 por ciento de las ganancias, á cuyo fin se nombrarán agentes fiscales, cuando se crea necesario.

"Este contrato puede ser traspasado á cualquier persona ó compañía, con la aprobación del Gobierno nacional, pero no á un gobierno extranjero. El contratista se compromete á introducir la maquinaria y demás cosas necesarias dentro de un año á contar del día en que dicho contrato haya sido legalmente aprobado, pudiendo prorrogarse este plazo por un año más. Á fin de garantizar el cumplimiento de lo que este contrato dispone, se depositarán 4,000 bolívares ($772) en cualquier institución bancaria de Venezuela, dentro de seis meses después de la aprobación definitiva de dicho contrato, y la cantidad podrá ser retirada tan luego se haya instalado la maquinaria. Se dará orden á las aduanas de que faciliten el transporte de todas las plantas textiles.

"Este contrato no afectará á otros de la misma naturaleza que antes se hubiesen celebrado, ni será incompatible con los derechos de aquellas personas que se ocupen en el cultivo de plantas textiles. Antes bien, dichas personas tendrán derecho, mediante el pago de una pequeña remuneración, al uso de la maquinaria que el contratista introduzca. Al expirar este contrato, se podrá obtener, bajo las mismas condiciones, una nueva concesión, con tal de que la empresa esté en vía de desarrollo y tenga todavía necesidad de ayuda."

RIQUEZA MINERAL.

En un informe enviado recientemente á la Oficina de Relaciones Extranjeras de la Gran Bretaña, Mr. W. H. D. Haggard, Ministro británico en Caracas, llama la atención sobre la gran riqueza mineral de Venezuela. Dice que apenas hay productos minerales conocidos que no se puedan encontrar en alguna parte del país; no que todos se hallen en cantidades suficientes para que su explotación sea lucrativa, pero se pueden explotar con provecho para el país y para los interesados las minas de oro, plata, cobre, plomo, hierro, azufre y carbón. El explotación de estas minas debería, en otras condiciones de tráfico y medios de transporte, aumentar mucho la riqueza, no sólo de Venezuela sino del mundo. La naturaleza ha sido generosa con Venezuela, dándola un sistema fluvial magnífico, y el día que estas grandes artérias del comercio sean accesibles por medio de caminos, el Ministro crée que comenzará para el país una nueva era de progreso. Aun cuando se crée que en el territorio venezolano hay muchas fuentes de petróleo, uno de los ramos de riqueza mineral más notables que hoy no se explota es el asfalto, de cual hay lagos que aparentemente forman parte del mismo sistema á que pertenece el famoso lago de asfalto situado en la vecina isla de Trinidad.

MUERTE DEL GENERAL RENGIFO.

Hace pocos días se recibió en Wáshington la triste noticia de haber perecido ahogado en el río Magdalena el General Don JULIO RENGIFO M., que hasta hace pocos meses fué Encargado de Negocios de Colombia en los Estados Unidos. Honda impresión ha producido en los círculos oficiales y sociales tan lamentable acontecimiento. Fué el General RENGIFO uno de los más distinguidos hombres públicos de la América española, y desempeñó en su patria cargos importantes á satisfacción general. Su carrera como abogado, militar y diplomático fué muy notable. Nació en Cali, Departamento del Cauca, en 1858. Hizo sus estudios de abogado en la capital de la República y fué Juez y Magistrado del Tribunal Departamental. En 1888 fué electo Representante al Congreso Nacional. Tomó parte en las campañas de 1876, 1879 y 1895, llegando á obtener el grado de General en Jefe del Ejército. Fué Jefe Militar del Departamento de Panamá durante los trabajos del canal. Entró en la carrera diplomático en 1889 como Secretario de la Legación de Colombia en Wáshington, en la cual rindió importantes servicios á su país. Activo, estudioso é ilustrado, el Señor RENGIFO cumplió debidamente y con brillo los diferentes cargos que se Gobierno le encomendó.

Hace pocos meses el General RENGIFO regresó á Colombia, y su Gobierno le honró con el elevado cargo de Ministro del Tesoro, y poco después le confió su representación diplomática en el Ecuador. Iba en camino para aquel país cuando ocurrió el desgraciado acontecimiento que le causó la muerte. El General RENGIFO fué uno de los mejores amigos y sostenedores de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, y á sus valiosos esfuerzos se debe en gran parte que Colombia haya entrado otra vez en la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. Con su muerte pierde su patria uno de sus hijos más ilustres.

EL CONGRESO COMERCIAL INTERNACIONAL.

El Congreso Comercial Internacional, compuesto de delegados de casi todos los países civilizados del mundo, así como de representantes de las más importantes cámaras de comercio de todos los centros mercantiles, se reunió en el auditorio de la Asociación Nacional de Exportación en la ciudad de Filadelfia, el 12 de octubre de 1899.

Mr. DAVID J. HILL, Subsecretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos, presidió en las ceremonias de inauguración, y pronunció un discurso de bienvenida dirigido á los delegados.

Á continuación, el Corregidor de la ciudad, Mr. ASHBRIDGE, pronunció también otro discurso presentando á los delegados las felicita-

ciones de la municipalidad. Mr. CHARLES H. CRAMP, Presidente de los Museos Comerciales de Filadelfia, tomó la palabra y explicó los fines y alcances del Congreso. Luego habló Mr. W. P. WILSON, Director de dichos Museos, quien, en sentido general, se refirió á las futuras reuniones internacionales.

Debido á compromisos en el oeste, el Presidente MCKINLEY no pudo estar presente en las ceremonias de inauguración del Congreso, pero envió un despacho telegráfico muy cordial.

Á fin de formarse una idéa de los propósitos de este Congreso, conviene observar el alcance de los asuntos que en él se discutirán, el cual es como sigue:

Comercio extranjero en general, incluyendo la cuestión del establecimiento de un sistema de arbitraje internacional, desde el punto de vista comercial; la conveniencia de unificar el sistema de entradas de aduanas en todos los países; las ventajas que resultarían de extender las facilidades de comunicaciones postales internacionales; la cuestión del canal interoceánico y los beneficios que de la construcción del mismo reportarían todas las naciones; el asunto de bancos y monedas, incluyendo bancos internacionales, en sus relaciones con el tráfico; la necesidad de leyes internacionales sobre quiebras, patentes y marcas de fábrica; las ventajas para el comercio de una moneda internacional; el efecto que un buen servicio diplomático tendría sobre el tráfico extranjero; la necesidad de un servicio consular bien organizado; la adopción universal del sistema métrico; los almacenes de muestras y su efecto sobre el tráfico; los ferrocarriles y su influencia en el desarrollo del comercio extranjero, etc.

La sección latino-americana discutirá la aplicación de la Doctrina de Monroe á las repúblicas americanas; los intereses de Inglaterra y de los Estados Unidos en conservar la autonomía de las repúblicas americanas; el desarrollo industrial del América del Sur; la producción de ganado y granos en los países del Río de la Plata; las oportunidades para invertir capitales en los países tropicales; la riqueza mineral en las regiones andinas; los efectos de la fluctuación de la moneda sobre el progreso latino-americano; la necesidad de mayor diversidad de productos y de demanda por parte de los Estados Unidos, y, finalmente, mayor incremento á la construcción de ferrocarriles en la América del Sur.

Las discusiones del Congreso serán en inglés, pero ningún idioma moderno se verá excluido. El Congreso será neutral en todas estas discusiones, á las que no se fijará limitación alguna.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

La revista "The Cosmopolitan," en su número de octubre, contiene un artículo titulado "Great Industries of the United States" (Grandes Industrias de los Estados Unidos). Es un trabajo interesante con ilustraciones, que trata de la explotación de minas de zinc, y fué escrito por FRANK EBERLE. Dice el escritor que la explotación de minas de zinc se está convertiendo rápidamente en una de las más grandes industrias americanas. Hace pocos meses los Estados Unidos producían apenas una octava parte del zinc que se consume en el mundo, pero la producción está aumentando tanto, que antes de mucho tiempo este país proveerá al mundo como de la cuarta parte del mineral de zinc que necesita. Prácticamente todo el mineral de zinc de los Estados Unidos viene del sudeste de Missouri, de un condado en la parte sudeste de Kansas, y de dos condados al norte de Arkansas. Esta sección produjó más de $6,000,000 en mineral de zinc el año pasado, y como $1,000,000 en mineral de plomo.

La producción del primero de éstos durante este año será más del doble de lo que fué en el año anterior. Dicha sección produce como las siete octavas partes del mineral de zinc de los Estados Unidos. Casi todo el zinc y todo el plomo se consumen en las fábricas de este país, pero la demanda por mineral de zinc y peltre de los Estados Unidos aumenta constantemente en Europa, y ya se han hecho exportaciones en grandes cantidades. El mineral es enviado á las fundiciones de Bélgica y de Gales. Algunas fundiciones extranjeras tienen agentes en la región atrás mencionada para la compra del mineral. Durantes los últimos veinticinco años, las minas de zinc de aquella sección han producido por valor de más de $60,000,000 de dicho mineral, y, sin embargo, la localidad no había sido considerada de importancia sino hasta en los últimos cinco años. Las ventas totales de mineral de zinc y plomo durante los últimos doce años han sido como sigue:

1888	$2,321,597	1894	$3,535,736
1889	2,722,500	1895	3,771,979
1890	3,367,687	1896	3,667,495
1891	3,840,480	1897	4,813,667
1892	4,580,787	1898	7,171,814
1893	3,317,632	1899 (calculadas en)	15,000,000

El mineral de zinc representa como las nueve decimas partes de las cantidades anteriores. "Joplin, el centro comercial de la región minera, es una ciudad floreciente de 25,000 habitantes, y su población aumenta en la proporción de 1,000 personas por mes."

Bajo el título de "Three Years of American Expansion" (Tres Años de Expansión Americana), Mr. W. R. LAWSON publica en el periódico titulado "Bankers' Magazine," de Londres, correspondiente á setiembre, un análisis interesante de lo que él denomina "el último bombo americano." Dice el autor que los negocios en los Estados Unidos durante

los tres años de 1897, 1898 y 1899, período durante el cua se ha desarrollado este bombo, "han llegado á un grado tal, que cualquier país del Viejo Mundo desearía conseguir igual desarrollo en tantas decadas como años han pasado. Desnudo de todas sus bravatas y rimbombancias quedan, sin embargo, hechos tan indisputables como sólidamente basados para considerar esta época como una en que han tenido lugar los episodios económicos más notables del nuestros tiempos." Señala el inmenso poder de producción de los Estados Unidos, y augura su poder futuro para abastecer al mundo, al mismo tiempo que hace deducciones poco favorables á la Gran Bretaña referentes al progreso industrial y á la rivalidad de los Estados Unidos en materia de fábricas.

En la revista titulada "Implement Age," de Filadelfia, correspondiente al 15 de setiembre de 1899, hay un artículo de Mr. GEORGE D. COLEMAN, con este título: "Securing Foreign Trade." Dice que tres son las naciones que ocupan el lugar más prominente en cuanto al tráfico exterior, y son Inglaterra, Alemania y los Estados Unidos. Inglaterra trata de conservar la posición que hasta hoy ha tenido. Alemania aspira á extender su comercio exterior. Los Estados Unidos desean llevar sus productos á nuevos mercados y dar mayor ensanche al tráfico que ya tienen con otras naciones. Opina Mr. COLEMAN que ha habido mucho de sentimental y poco de práctico en los métodos comerciales de los Estados Unidos para traficar con mercados extranjeros.

El periódico "Fielden's Magazine," de Londres, correspondiente al mes de setiembre, contiene un artículo editorial sobre los Informes Consulares, en el cual se ponen en parangón las observaciones hechas por los empleados consulares de la Gran Bretaña y los métodos empleados por el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores británico en presentar al público dichas observaciones, con lo que á ese mismo respecto se practica en los Estados Unidos y en Alemania. El escritor no aprueba ni el tono general de los informes británicos, ni los métodos seguidos por el Gobierno para su publicación, y elogia el sistema americano de dar inmediata publicación á los informes enviados por sus representantes en países extranjeros.

La Sección de Lechería de la Oficina de Industria Animal del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado últimamente un folleto preparado por Mr. HENRY E. ALVORD, I. C., con este título: "Experimental Exports of Butter in 1897" (Exportación de Mantequilla como Experimento en 1897). Es ésta una reimpresión del decimo quinto informe annual de la Oficina de Industria Animal, y tiene por objeto fomentar la exportación de mantequilla de primera clase, porque la demanda de este artículo en la Gran Bretaña va en aumento y ofrece vasto mercado para grandes cantidades de productos de lechería de los Estados Unidos.

El Departamento de Geología del Estado de Georgia acaba de publicar una interesante monografía. El trabajo lleva este título: "Boletín No. 6, Informe Preliminar sobre Algunas Clases de Arcillas Existentes en el Estado de Georgia." El volumen consta de más de 200 páginas, con ilustraciones y un mapa grande de la parte central del Estado, en el cual se marca la línea de la vertiente. Esta línea, que se extiende en dirección noroeste á través del Estado, desde Columbus hasta Augusta, es la línea divisoria entre la Planicie de la Costa y la Meseta de Piedmont.

En la tipografía de Albert Rathke, de Madeburgo, se ha publicado una obra con este título: "Kultur- und Reiseskizzen aus Nord- und Mittel-Amerika." Su autor, el Dr. H. PASSCHE, miembro del Parlamento alemán, da cuenta, en estilo sencillo, de su viaje á través de México, la América Central, Cuba y Venezuela. El objeto principal de este viaje fué estudiar la industria azucarera. Son de particular interés las observaciones del autor sobre la fabricación de azúcar de remolacha en los estados de Nebraska y California, de los Estados Unidos.

El "Geographical Journal" correspondiente á setiembre de 1899 contiene la primera parte de un artículo del Dr. FRANCISCO P. MORENO, titulado "Exploraciones en la Patagonia." El periódico mencionado se publica bajo los auspicios de la Real Sociedad de Geografía de Londres, ante la cual el Dr. MORENO leyó el 29 de mayo de 1899 el referido estudio, que ha visto la luz profusamente ilustrado, haciendo del artículo una de las colaboraciones más interesantes para la geografía de la América del Sur.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado su "Report No. 62," en forma de folleto, con este título: "Cultivo de Tabaco para Cigarros en Florida." Este trabajo fué preparado por Mr. MARCUS L. FLOYD, empleado de dicho Departamento, y cuya experiencia sobre el asunto de que trata se extiende por un período de cerca de doce años. El informe describe los métodos usados en Florida en el cultivo, preparación y embalaje de tabaco de Cuba y Sumatra producido en Florida.

La Sociedad Geológica de Francia ha publicado últimamente un trabajo científico con este título: "Sur l'Age des Couches Traversées par la Canal de Panama" (Edad de las Capas de Tierra Atravesadas por el Canal de Panamá). Su autor, Mr. H. DOUVILLE, habla de las ricas colecciones de fósiles de la época terciaria en la línea del proyectado canal. Dice que el sedimento de que se compone el Istmo de Panamá pertenece á dos sistemas diferentes.

El artículo más interesante que apareció en el "Wide World Magazine", correspondiente al mes de setiembre, para aquellas personas que

gustan de leer acerca de la geografía y costumbres de la América del Sur, es uno escrito por Mrs. PENNIMAN, en el cual describe el viaje de 100 millas que hizó por tierra desde el Lago Titicaca hasta Buenos Aires.

La revista americana "Review of Reviews," correspondiente á octubre de 1899, contiene un artículo con este nombre: "A Study of Our (United States) Diplomatic Relations with Nicaragua" (Estudio sobre las Relaciones Diplomáticas de los Estados Unidos con Nicaragua), por Mr. CORRY M. STADDEN, joven periodista de Ohio, residente en Wáshington.

Mr. JEAN HABEL, en su libro titulado "Ansichten aus Süd-Amerika" y publicado por Dietrich Reimer, Berlin, 1897, hace algunas observaciones valiosas acerca del Río de la Plata y de la costa occidental de la América del Sur. La obra contiene 70 hermosas vistas fotográficas y un mapa del valle del Aconcagua, de la República de Chile.

En la ciudad de México acaba de aparecer un nuevo periódico ilustrado bajo el título de "El Alacrán." Su redactor es el Señor ALBERTO ARONS, periodista de grande experiencia. Las ilustraciones son obra del Señor ANGEL PONS, el brillante artista y redactor en jefe de "El Correo Español."

Un periódico mercantil, titulado "La Gaceta Mercantil," se está publicando ahora diariamente, excepto los domingos, en la ciudad de México. Su editor es el Señor ANTONIO P. GONZALES, y le ayuda en sus trabajos el Señor Don ANSELMO ALFARO. Se dedicará exclusivamente á asuntos comerciales.

Con el título de "Korff's Welt-Reise" (un viaje á Nueva Zelandia y la América del Sur, pasando por Australia), la Deutsches Druck- und Verlags-Haus, de Berlín, Alemania, ha publicado una colección de pequeños bosquejos muy interesantes sobre los mencionados países.

Sir MARTIN CONWAY ha agregado al primer informe de su expedición en los Andes bolivianos ("Geographical Journal," julio, 1899) un mapa de la Cordillera Real, que está al este de La Paz. El trabajo contiene, además, un número considerable de ilustraciones fotográficas.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. OUTUBRO DE 1899. No. 4.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

COMMERCIO ESTRANGEIRO NO PRIMEIRO SEMESTRE DE 1899.

O BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Setembro publicou um artigo sobre as exportações da Republica Argentina durante o primeiro semestre de 1899, o qual foi tomado do periodico "The Review of the River Plate." Comparando os dados estatisticos do commercio estrangeiro durante o primeiro semestre de 1899 com os do periodo correspondente de 1898, se vê que o augmento havido no volume do commercio foi de $15,317,504, ouro. Em 1898, as importações montaram a $49,553,375 e as exportações a $81,632,825 ou um total de $131,186,200. Em 1899, as importações foram no valor de $57,452,942, as exportações no de $89,050,762, e o commercio total foi de $146,503,704. O augmento no valor das importações foi de $7,899,567, e no valor das exportações, $7,417,937. O commercio total do primeiro semestre de 1898, comparado com o do periodo correspondente de 1898, mostra um augmento de $17,443,886.

As exportações classificam-se do modo seguinte:

	1899.	1898.	Augmento.
Productos pastoris	$52, 590, 876	$48, 942, 449	$3, 648, 427
Productos agricolas	34, 629, 263	31, 043, 896	3, 585, 367
Productos de floresta	1, 145, 974	1, 019, 359	126, 615
Productos mineraes	115, 312	103, 893	11, 419
Caça	165, 619	108, 715	56, 904
Productos diversos	403, 718	414, 513	[1] 10, 795
Total	89, 050, 762	81, 632, 825	7, 417, 937

[1] Diminuição.

O augmento havido nas importações foi limitado principalmente aos tecidos, mineraes, madeiras de construcção, carvão de pedra e productos diversos. A classificação dos artigos importados foi como se segue:

	1899.	1898.	Augmento.
Tecidos	$20,175,949	$14,681,764	$5,494,185
Ferro e manufacturas de ferro	8,286,425	8,239,055	47,370
Materias vegetaes	6,309,113	6,370,263	[1] 61,150
Carvão de pedra, vidro, pedra e louça	5,661,682	4,266,529	1,395,153
Madeira de construcção de todas as classes	3,522,960	3,066,241	456,719
Bebidas	3,410,022	4,129,104	[1] 719,082
Productos chimicos e tintas	1,986,084	2,007,215	[1] 21,131
Oleos mineraes e outros	1,812,173	1,332,838	479,336
Metaes exceptuando-se o ferro	1,644,798	1,662,137	[1] 17,339
Papel e manufacturas de papel	1,472,016	1,426,158	45,858
Productos animaes	1,001,309	1,062,133	[1] 60,824
Couro e manufacturas de couro	580,744	439,550	141,194
Productos diversos	1,589,667	870,388	719,279
Total	57,452,942	49,553,375	7,899,567

[1] Differença para menos.

Quanto ao commercio com os paizes estrangeiros, os seguintes quadros mostram os totaes da exportação e importação:

EXPORTAÇÃO.

Destino.	1899.	1898.	Augmento.
Estados Unidos	$3,201,170	$2,818,987	$382,183
Grã Bretanha	10,923,002	11,284,252	361,250
Allemanha	14,658,348	13,159,974	1,498,374
França	18,281,346	15,859,150	2,322,196
Italia	2,094,857	2,884,947	[1] 790,090
Belgica	11,783,129	9,719,564	2,063,565
Brazil	3,261,816	3,057,577	204,239
Uruguay	2,225,366	2,244,374	[1] 19,008
Hollanda	853,301	296,934	556,367
Hespanha	766,014	142,684	623,330
Bolivia	279,706	351,195	[1] 71,487
Chile	205,754	1,095,498	889,744
Paraguay	104,196	80,279	23,917
As Antilhas	80,202	95,139	[1] 14,937
Portugal	72,184	11,897	60,587
Os demais paizes	4,096,081	3,969,008	127,073
Para os portos de escala	16,164,290	14,561,666	1,602,624
Total	89,050,762	81,632,825	7,317,937

IMPORTAÇÃO.

Estados Unidos	$6,582,249	$4,431,998	$2,150,251
Grã Bretanha	21,294,496	17,800,137	3,494,359
Allemanha	7,008,125	5,703,359	1,304,766
França	5,425,416	4,949,982	475,434
Italia	7,265,492	6,424,922	840,570
Belgica	4,909,365	4,700,491	208,874
Brazil	2,221,300	2,493,410	[1] 272,110
Uruguay	256,745	257,961	[1] 1,216
Hollanda	64,565	50,454	14,111
Hespanha	1,459,073	1,719,396	[1] 260,323
Bolivia	29,033	26,325	2,708
Chile	65,150	33,873	31,277
Paraguay	702,810	875,247	172,437
As Antilhas	17,282	15,515	1,767
Portugal	59,355	29,305	30,050
Outros paizes	92,486	41,000	51,486
Total	57,452,942	49,553,375	7,899,567

[1] Diminuição.

COLONIAS NA PROVINCIA DE CORDOBA.

A Repartição de Estatistica de Cordoba publicou ultimamente alguns dados estatisticos de interesse sobre as colonias naquella Provincia. Segundo a dita publicação, o Departamento de San Justo é de conformação plana, com muito pequenas ondulações, tem um pequeno rio chamado Carabota e alguns lagos pequenos. A Estrada de Ferro Central de Cordoba atravessa pelo centro do Departamento e a região ao norte do lugar é considerada como a melhor para os colonos. O solo tem uma profundidade de 5 a 18 pollegadas e se encontra agua a uma profundidade de 5 a 55 pés da superficie, esta ultima profundidade sendo encontrada nas regiões mais altas da parte norte. Na região do sul, a colonização tem sido retardada por causa da falta de facilidades de transporte.

O mesmo pode-se dizer da rica região que se estende ao noroeste das colonias de San José, Santa Bárbara e Nueva Undine. Os principaes productos cultivados na região de San Justo são o trigo e a linhaça, a qual só se cultiva pela semente. O milho dá-se em abundancia, mas o custo necessario para levar o producto ao mercado é tal que impede que se cultive em maior escala e sua colheita basta para o consumo local. Produz-se tambem a cevada mas em pequena quantidade. Ha grande numero de pequenas plantações de fructas e arvores de sombra.

Neste Departmento ha quatro colonias que são Santa Maria, Eugenia, Galeno e General Deheza. Todas estão situadas em bons terrenos e devido ao emprego de poços semi-artesianos tem-se podido adiantar muito a criação de gado e fomentar a agricultura em geral. O preço do terreno varia muito, desde $15 por hectar, com tres on quatro annos de credito e juro a 12 por cento, até $50 por hectar nas mesmas condições. O arrendamento varia tambem, mas pelo geral o arrendatario está obrigado a entregar 12 por cento da colheita ao dono todos os annos. Em algumas das colonias do sul o trigo é talvez o unico cultivo, havendo-se abandonado o da linhaça, e o milho só se cultiva em quantidade sufficiente para o consumo. Nas outras colonias se cultiva mais alfalfa do que trigo, de sorte que se convertirão em colonias de criação, não porque se podem conseguir boas colheitas, mas porque seu cultivo não é lucrativo. Nesta secção o preço das terras varia de $20 a $23 por hectar, com tres ou quatro annos de credito, sem juro.

BRAZIL.

QUESTÃO DE LIMITES COM A GUYANA FRANCEZA.

No "Comptes Rendus" da Sociedade de Geographia da França, publicado em Março de 1899, ha um curto estudo de Mr. M. S. BROUSSEAU sobre o territorio em disputa entre a França e o Brazil. Depois de referir-se ao descobrimento de ouro em 1894, por CLEMENT TAMBRA, um

negro ignorante, e PIERRE VILLIERS de Cayenna, no territorio contestado, o autor faz um ligeiro resumo da conformação physica, a geologia e a população indigena do paiz Mr. BROUSSEAU adquiriu os conhecimentos que possue do paiz nas viagens que fez em 1894 durante os quaes conseguiu determinar a posição das cabeceiras dos rios que ficam entre o Oyapok, que forma o limite do Brazil e a Guyana franceza e o Amazonas.

A formação geologica do territorio em disputa é semelhante á da Guyana franceza, mas o seu clima é muito mais saudavel. Os francezes não reclamaram o territorio em disputa até que se descobriu o ouro; e ainda que não podem pretender a occupação effectiva, fundam os direitos que reclamaram sobre o interior em certas clausulas ambiguas do tratado de Utrecht. Hoje a França reclama todo o territorio que está ao sul das Guyanas até o Rio Branco. A Grã Bretanha e a Hollanda estão interessadas tambem no arranjo da questão.

EQUADOR.

O ARCO MERIDIANO EM QUITO.

Nas sessões da Conferencia Internacional Geodesica, celebradas na cidade de Stuttgart, Allemanha, em 1898, se approvou a proposição feita por um dos delegados americanos de que, na opinião da Conferencia a medida do arco meridiano equatorial que passa perto de Quito, devia ser revista com o maior cuidado possivel, empregando os methodos modernos. Até agora se usam as medidas que em fins do seculo passado tomaram os sabios francezes, BOUGUER, LA CONDAMINE, e GODIN. A Sociedade de Geographia da França adoptou a idea e nomeou uma commissão para o estudo da materia.

Em Janeiro de 1899, a dita Commissão resolveu recommendar o projecto á consideração do Governo francez indicando como o mais conveniente um arco de 5 a 6 graos, para que os resultados possam ser comparados com o das operações analogas que se estão executando no Velho Mundo. O Governo deu seu consentimento e annunciou no mez de Maio, que o trabalho tinha sido encommendado aos Capitães MAURAIN a LA COMBE, officiaes de experiencia da Secção Geodesica do Serviço Geographico, os quaes estão ja tomando as necessarias observações.

EXPORTAÇÃO DA BORRACHA.

Em um relatorio recente, o Consul da Inglaterra em Guayaquil diz que o augmento no consumo da borracha tem attrahido nova attenção para o producto do Equador. Está-se colhendo a borracha agora no interior, em pontos remotos da costa, onde sua extracção não era considerada renumeradora por causa do custo de transporte, mas, como o

preço da borracha tem quasi dobrado nos ultimos annos, sua colheita e transporte tem-se tornado lucrativos.

O Consul diz que uma grande parte da borracha que antes foi enviada para os Estados Unidos, agora vai para Londres e outros portos da Europa. O preço recebido pela borracha crúa nos portos de embarque do Equador varia de $43.80 a $48.66 por 100 libras. Em 1897 as exportações de borracha de Guayaquil foram de 590,400 libras, no valor de $229,831 na moeda americana. A quantidade exportada em 1898 foi de 932,400 libras no valor de $454,192, ou um augmento de cerca de 100 por cento no valor total do producto.

GUATEMALA.

CONVENÇÃO COM A GRÃ BRETANHA PARA A PROTECÇÃO DE MARCAS DE FABRICA.

A Secretaria de Relações Exteriores tem publicado como um documento separado (Serie de Tratados, No. 16) a convenção celebrada entre os Estados Unidos e Guatamala relativa a marcas de fabrica, e firmada em Guatemala, 20 de Julho de 1898. A troca das ratificações effectuou-se em 28 de Julho de 1899.

Eis o documento:

Sua Magestade a Rainha do Reino Unido da Grã Bretanha e Irlanda, Imperatriz da India, etc., etc., e sua Excellencia o Presidente da Republica de Guatemala, no desejo de celebrar uma Convenção para a protecção reciproca de marcas de fabrica e de commercio, teem nomeado ao effeito seus Plenipotenciarios, a saber:

Sua Magestade a Rainha do Reino Unido da Grã Bretanha e Irlanda, Imperatriz da India, etc., o Senhor GEORGE BIRT JENNER, seu Ministro residente na America Central; e sua Excellencia o Presidente da Republica de Guatemala, Doutor FRANCISCO ANGUIANO, Secretario de Estado e do Departamento de Relações Interiores e Justiça e encarregado do de Relações Exteriores; os quaes, depois de haver-se communicado seus plenos poderes, achados em boa e devida forma, teem concordado nos artigos seguintes:

ARTIGO I. Os cidadãos ou subditos de qualquer das partes contratantes gozarão, nos dominios e possessões da outra, dos mesmos direitos que nelles se concedem na actualidade, ou que mais tarde sejam concedidos, a seus nacionaes em tudo que se refera a marcas de fabrica e commercio, etiquetas industriaes e modelos.

Para obter o gozo destes direitos deve cumprir-se reciprocamente com as formalidades que estabeleçam as leis dos respectivos paizes.

ART. 2. As estipulações da presente Convenção serão extensivas a todas as Colonias e possessões exteriores de sua Magestade Britannica,

com excepção de India, Canadá, Terranova, o Cabo de Boa Esperança, Natal, Nova Galles do Sul, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Australia do Sul, Australia Occidental e Nova Zelandia.

Fica entendido que as estipulações da presente Convenção se farão extensivas a qualquer das Colonias ou possessões acima mencionadas, em favor das quaes o Representante de Sua Magestade Britannica tenha feito uma notificação com o objecto mencionado ao Sr. Ministro de Relações Exteriores da Republica de Guatemala, dentro de um anno a contar da data da troca das ratificações da presente Convenção.

ART. 3. A presente Convenção será ratificada quanto antes seja possivel, e estará em vigor durante cinco annos que começarão a correr um mez depois da troca das ratificações, que se effectuará na cidade de Guatemala. Sem embargo, si um anno antes de expirar este prazo nenhuma das duas partes contratantes annuncia á outra mediante declaração official, sua intenção de fazer cessar seus effeitos, a dita Convenção continuará sendo obrigatoria durante um anno depois de feita a declaração antes mencionada.

MEXICO.

IMPORTAÇÃO DE CARVÃO DE PEDRA E COKE.

Segundo o "Coal Trade Journal" de Setembro 20, tem se havido um augmento constante nas importações no Mexico de carvão de pedra e coke. A quantidade importada em 1898 attingiu a cerca de 598,000 toneladas, o que indica um augmento de 30 por cento sobre as importações de 1897. Isto se deve, sem duvida, ao numero de emprezas industriaes novas que ha na Republica e que, por causa de escassez de lenha, veem-se obrigadas a empregar carvão de pedra e coke em suas fabricas. Nas estradas de ferro se usa quasi exclusivamente carvão comprimido em vez de lenha.

O Mexico importa carvão dos seguintes paizes: Estados Unidos, que enviam mais de 50 por cento do total; a Grã Bretanha, que envia 33 por cento e o resto é enviado pela Australia, Belgica e Allemanha. As importações de carvão desta ultima vão em augmento e fazem seria concurrencia aos productos da Australia e Belgica. O carvão da Australia chega quasi todo aos portos da costa do Pacifico, de onde se envia em pequenas quantidades ás fabricas que se encontram á curta distancia da dita costa. A maior parte deste carvão se emprega para o abasto dos navios que fazem escala nos portos do Pacifico.

PERU.

A PRODUCÇÃO DE COBRE.

A suspensão na cunhagem livre da prata, ha dous annos, deu em resultado uma depressão na exploração das minas de prata e em muitas dellas tem cessado os trabalhos. Em 1898, se extrahiram pela primeira vez na historia da mina de Cerro de Pasco, que tem sido essencialmente productora de prata, mineraes de cobre, que foram enviados para a Inglaterra como uma experiencia, quando o preço do cobre puro era de £52 a tonelada. As vendas foram tão satisfactorias que antes de que terminára o anno, havia de 50 a 60 mineiros occupados na exportação de mineraes de cobre. Na actualidade a producção é cerca de 3,000 toneladas por mez, das quaes duas terceiras partes ficam em Cerro de Pasco, por falta de meios de transporte, pois que apenas 1,000 toneladas podem ser levadas mensalmente para a Estrada de ferro de Oroya e pelo transporte destas se paga em média £8 por tonelada.

De Oroya estes minerios são transportados por estrada de ferro para a costa, pagando-se £1 por tonelada, e por ultimo são embarcados com destino a Liverpool ou Swansea a um custo de £3 por tonelada, approximadamente. Todos os mineraes que agora se beneficiam são da qualidade mais rica, e produzem de 35 a mais de 40 por cento de metal puro. O preço médio que obteem em Liverpool é de £25 por tonelada. A construcção da estrada de ferro de Oroya a Cerro de Pasco dará grande desenvolvimento á industria de cobre, reduzindo os gastos sobre cada tonelada que se envia a Liverpool, que agora são de £14 a £7 ou talvez menos.

Calcula-se que a quantidade de mineral que se pode considerar prompta para a exploração é de 5,000,000 a 6,000,000 toneladas. Tem a corroborar esta affirmação o facto de que a extracção do dito mineral custa muito pouco, porque apezar dos methodos primitivos que se empregam, não excede de 6 a 8 xelins por tonelada.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

RELATORIO OFFICIAL SOBRE AS COLHEITAS.

O relatorio da Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Agricultura, correspondente ao mez de Outubro, mostra que a condição média do milho, no dia 1º do dito mez, era de 82.7 contra 85.2 no dia 1º de Setembro de 1899, 82 no dia 1º de Outubro de 1898, e 81.9 que foi a condição média em Outubro durante os ultimos dez annos. Não occorreu nenhuma mudança notavel no mez de Setembro nos principaes Estados productores de milho.

Emquanto não se tenham recebido dos agricultores os relatorios usuaes, nem se tenha feito uma investigaçao cuidadosa sobre as condiçoes existentes nos principaes Estados productores de trigo, tanto de primavera como de inverno, não se fará nenhum calculo sobre a producção deste grão por geira de terreno.

O calculo preliminar da producção de aveia por geira é de 30.7 alqueires, contra 27.8 alqueires em 1898, e 25.8 alqueires, a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Quanto á qualidade, a média é de 89.5 contra 84.5 o anno passado, e 87.6 em 1897.

O calculo preliminar da producção de cevada por geira é de 27 alqueires, contra 21.6 alqueires em 1898, e 23 alqueires a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Pelo que se refere á qualidade a média é de 88.4, contra 90.6 ó anno passado, e 87.6 em 1897.

O calculo preliminar da producção de centeio por geira é de 14.4 alqueires, contra 15.6 alqueires em 1898 e 13.7 que tém sido a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Quanto á qualidade a média é de 90, contra 90.2 o anno passado e 92.7 em 1897.

A condição média do trigo mourisco é de 70.2, contra 75.2 o 1º de Setembro de 1899, 76.2 o 1º de Outubro de 1898, e 84.2 a média em Outubro durante os ultimos dez annos.

A condição média das batatas o 1º de Outubro era de 81.7, contra 86.3 o 1º de Setembro de 1899, 72.5 o 1º de Outubro de 1898, e 73.7 a média durante Outubro nos ultimos dez annos.

Os relatorios relativos á canna de assucar eram menos favoraveis que os correspondentes ao 1º de Setembro de 1899. Nota-se uma pequena melhora na condição do arroz e do tabaco.

O relatorio nostra que a condição média do algodão era de 62.4, contra 68.5 o 1º de Setembro de 1899, 75.4 o 1º de Outubro 1898, e 73.5 a média em Outubro durante os ultimos dez annos.

ARADOS DE VAPOR EM HAWAII.

Em uma communicação dirigida á Secretaria de Estado em data de 17 de Agosto de 1899, o Sr. WILLIAM HAYWOOD, Consul Geral dos Estados Unidos, diz que alguns dias antes se desembarcou em Honolulu um jogo de arados de vapor, fabricados pela casa de O. S. KELLEY, de Springfield, Ohio, e destinados á "American Sugar Co." Estes arados são os primeiros de sua classe fabricados nos Estados Unidos, pois os que até agora se tinham feito alli não são de systema de cabo, mas cada um funccionava por meio da machina que arrastava o arado.

Até agora todos os arados de vapor importavam-se da Escocia por serem mais baratos e porque nos Estados Unidos não havia quem fabricara esta classe de instrumentos. O jogo de arados custa $20,000 e foi entregue 40 dias antes do que houvesse sido possivel si se tivesse comprado na Escocia. Mr. HAYWOOD diz que se calcula durante os tres proximos annos se necessitarão nas plantações novas de 20 a 30 jogos de arados, e si os que se acabam de receber são satisfactorios, os outros se comprarão tambem nos Estados Unidos.

VENEZUELA.

LAUDO DO TRIBUNAL DE ARBITRAMENTO.

O laudo do Tribunal de Arbitramento na questão de limites entre a Guyana Britannica e a Republica de Venezuela, foi publicado em Paris, onde se verificaram as sessões do dito Tribunal, o dia 3 de Outubro do anno corrente. Isto porá fim, provavelmente, a uma controversia que tem durado mais de meio seculo e que tem estado a ponto de produzir um conflicto.

O territorio contestado estendia-se desde o rio Essequibo, a léste, até as immediações dos rios Caroni e Orinoco ao oeste, e do Atlantico até a fronteira do Brazil ao sul. Venezuela reclamava a linha do Essequibo, que se diz era o limite primitivo entre as colonias da Hespanha e da Hollanda. Por outra parte, o Governo britannico sustinha que a linha devia começar em Punta Barima, á fóz do Orinoco e correr d'ali até o sudoeste e oeste, quasi parallela ao Orinoco, e a uma distancia de 40 a 60 milhas deste rio, até Upata. Deste ponto a linha devia seguir em direcção meridional pelo valle do Caroni, muito immediata a este rio, e depois para o sudeste até a montanha Roraima e a fronteira do Brazil.

A pretenção da Inglaterra fundava-se no facto de que tanto em 1781 como em 1796, quando a Grã Bretanha tomou posse das colonias hollandezas, as auctoridades inglezas fixaram o limite occidental de suas possessões por meio de uma linha que começava em um ponto ao oeste de Punta Barima, acima do Orinoco, e seguia depois a vertente entre os valles do Orinoco e do Essequibo. Em 1814, a Grã Bretanha obteve da Hollanda, por meio de um tratado, direito ao territorio conquistado, cujos limites eram, segundo se dizia, os mencionados atraz. Em 1840, Sir ROBERT SCHOMBURGK foi commissionado para estabelecer uma linha divisoria entre Venezuela e a Guyana Britannica. Segundo, diz Lord SALISBURY, Sir ROBERT recommendou que se chegasse a um arranjo, pelo qual a Grã Bretanha renunciasse a suas pretensões a uma linha fronteira que se estendesse muito até o interior, e em troca Venezuela reconhecesse formalmente o direito da Grã Bretanha a Punta Barima.

O resultado de todo isto foi a famosa "Linha Schomburgk" que estende-se para o sul desde a bocca do rio Barima até a montanha Roraima, sem seguir o curso de nenhum rio ou montanha, nem outra linha natural. O Governo venezuelano protestou contra esta linha, por cujo motivo o da Grã Bretanha declarou que aquella linha não tinha sido mais que uma tentativa e ordenou que se removessem os postes. Lord SALISBURY, sem embargo, declarou que "a dita concessão tinha sido feita na intelligencia precisa de que a Grã Bretanha não renunciava em maneira alguma ao direito que reclamava relativamente á mencionada linha."

Depois Lord ABERDEEN propoz uma linha que estendesse desde a fóz do rio Moroco, com direcção oeste e sudoeste, até a confluencia dos rios Cuyuni e Yuruari, e deste ponto o rio Cuyuni acima até a montanha Roraima. Em resposta, Venezuela propoz que se tirasse uma linha recta desde a bocca do rio Moroco até as cabeceiras do Essequibo, que coincidisse com o meridiano 59 de longitude. Então o Governo britannico volveu a suas pretensões a respeito da linha de Schomburgk. Mais tarde, Lord GRANVILLE propoz uma linha que partisse da bocca do Barima, continuando até a confluencia dos rios Acarabisi e Cuyuni, e seguisse d'ali a linha proposta por ABERDEEN. Finalmente a Grã Bretanha retirou as concessões que antes tinha feito.

Os documentos relacionados com este caso o teem convertido em uma das mais voluminosas controversias internacionaes que jamais se tem submettido a arbitramento. O allegado da Inglaterra e sua resposta consta de onze grandes tomos, um atlas, e um numero consideravel de mappas soltos, emquanto que os argumentos de Venezuela se compõem de seis grandes volumes e tres atlas. Os Governos contendentes convieram, no dia 2 de Fevereiro de 1897, em submetter as suas differenças a um Tribunal arbitral, e o tratado correspondente foi firmado na cidade de Washington, mas o Tribunal não se reuniu até o dia 15 de Julho de 1899.

O laudo que, segundo se diz, foi unanimemente approvado, foi lido por M. DE MARTENS, que era o quinto arbitro e o presidente do Tribunal. O laudo indica que a linha divisoria será quasi igual á de Schomburgk. Os unicos pontos de differença parecem ser que, depois de partir-se do rio Barima, seguirá o curso de alguns pequenos rios e arroios, em vez de continuar atravez do paiz. Segundo se tem communicado por telegrapho, o laudo do Tribunal é como segue:

"Os abaixoassignados pelas presentes dão e publicam a decisão que determina as questões que lhes foram submettidas pelo Tribunal e de conformidade com o arbitramento, decidimos, declaramos e sentenciamos definitivamente que a linha fronteira da Colonia da Guyana Britannica e dos Estados Unidos de Venezuela, é como segue:

"Partindo da costa em Punta Playa, a fronteira seguirá em linha directa até a confluencia do Barima e o Kaituma; d'aqui seguirá o *thalweg* deste ultimo, até as cabeceiras do rio Corentino (chamado tambem Cutari); d'ali partirá até a confluencia do Hâiowa e o Amacuro, seguindo o *thalweg* deste até suas cabeceiras nos lhanos de Imataca; d'aqui seguirá em direcção sudoeste ao longo da serra mais alta das montanhas de Imataca até o ponto mais alto da cadeia de Imataca, em frente ás cabeceiras do Barima e a cadeia principal das montanhas de Imataca; d'aqui, em direcção ao sudeste até as cabeceiras do Acarabisi, seguindo o cauce deste rio até o Cuyuni, cuja ribeira septentrional ha de seguir em direcção de oeste até chegar á confluencia do Cuyuni e o Vanamu; d'aqui seguirá o cauce do Vanamu até o extremo occidental de suas cabeceiras e d'ali em linha recta até o cume do Monte Roraima

e d'ali até as cabeceiras do Cotinga. Deste ponto a fronteira seguirá o cauce do Cotinga até sua confluencia com o Takutu e d'ali seguindo o cauce deste rio até sua cabeceira; d'aqui seguirá em linha recta até o extremo occidental dos montes Acarai, cujo cume mais elevado seguirá até chegar ás cabeceiras do Corentino, de onde partirá seguindo o curso do rio.

"Fica estipulado que a fronteira demarcada aqui deixa a salvo e não prejudica em maneira alguma as questões que hoje existem ou que possam suscitar-se no futuro entre a Grã Bretanha e a Republica do Brazil, ou entre a Republica do Brazil e Venezuela. Ao estabelecer os anteditos limites os arbitros julgam e decidem que, em tempo de paz, os rios Amacuro e Barima estarão abertos para a navegação da marinha mercante de todas as nações, com a devida reserva, pelo que respeita á disposições equitativas, e ao pagamento de direitos de pharol e outros impostos analogos, com a condição de que os direitos que imponham Venezuela e a Guyana Britannica ás embarcações que navegam nas aguas das porções dos rios que ambas possuem respectivamente, serão de accordo com a tarifa que reja ás embarcações Venezuelanas e inglezas. Estas tarifas não excederão ás que imponha qualquer outro paiz." O laudo se pronuncia tambem á condição de que nem Venezuela, nem a Guyana Britannica gravem com direitos aduaneiros as mercadorias que levarem os navios, vapores ou barcos que naveguem por estes rios; taes direitos só terão de ser impostos sobre as mercadorias que se desembarcarem em territorio Venezuelano ou territorio da Guyana Britanica, respectivamente.

FALLECIMENTO DO GENERAL RENGIFO.

Recebeu-se em Washington, ha poucos dias, a triste noticia de ter fallecido afogado no rio Magdalena o General Don JULIO RENGIFO, que até ha poucos mezes foi Encarregado de Negocios da Colombia nos Estados Unidos. Profunda impressão tem produzido nos circulos officiaes e sociaes tão lamentavel acontecimento. O General RENGIFO foi um dos mais distinctos homens publicos da America hespanhola, e desempenhou em sua patria cargos importantes á satisfação geral. Sua carreira como advogado, militar, e diplomata, foi muito notavel. Nasceu em Cali, Departamento do Cauca, em 1838. Fez seus estudos de advogado na capital da Republica e foi juiz e magistrado do Tribunal Departmental.

Em 1888 foi eleito Representante ao Congresso Nacional. Tomou parte nas campanhas de 1876, 1879, 1885 e 1895, chegando a obter o gráo de General em Chefe do Exercito. Foi Chefe Militar do Departamento de Panama durante os trabalhos do Canal. Entrou na carreira

diplomatica em 1889 como Secretario da Legação da Colombia em Washington, na qual prestou relevantes serviços a seu paiz. Activo, estudioso e illustrado, o Senhor RENGIFO cumpriu devidamente e com brilho os differentes cargos que o seu Governo lhe encommendou.

Ha poucos mezes o General RENGIFO regressou á Colombia e seu Governo o honrou com o elevado cargo de Ministro da Fazenda, e pouco depois lhe confiou sua representação diplomatica no Equador. Já em caminho para aquelle paiz quando occorreu o desgraçado acontecimento que lhe causou a morte. O General RENGIFO foi um dos melhores amigos e sustentadores da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas, e a seus valiosos esforços se deve em grande parte que a Colombia já tem entrado outra vez na União Internacional das Republicas Americanas. Com sua morte a sua patria perde um dos seus filhos mais illustres, e o corpo diplomatico acreditado em Washington um dos seus membros mais honrados.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. OCTOBRE 1899. No. 4.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

PERSPECTIVES COMMERCIALES.

L'Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès du Gouvernement de la République Argentine, est arrivé à New-York le 3 septembre 1899, venant de Buenos-Ayres, après un voyage plein de péripéties. Questionné sur les perspectives commerciales de cette République, ce haut fonctionnaire répondit selon le journal "Export Implement Age:"

"Je pense que la perspective des affaires est assez encourageante. L'année passée a été exceptionnellement bonne pour les importateurs de machines agricoles, étant donné le fait qu'il y a eu, pendant quelques années, un ralentissement général dans toutes les affaires commerciales produit par les grandes pertes qu'ont subies les fermiers par suite des ravages causés par les sauterelles aussi bien que par la sécheresse dans quelques parties du pays. Pendant cette période, les importateurs ont réussi à reduire considérablement leurs comptes-courants, de sorte que, quand la bonne récolte du blé et du maïs de la dernière année fût faite, leurs pratiques purent acheter les machines dont elles avaient besoin.

"Le pays, d'ailleurs, a exporté environ 1,200,000 tonnes de blé provenant de la récolte en train d'être expédiée et à peu près 400,000 tonnes de maïs. En outre, la tondaison de la laine s'est faite sur une large échelle et l'exportation des animaux appartenant à l'espèce bovine et ceux de la race ovine subit une remarquable augmentation d'année en année et la qualité s'est sensiblement améliorée. Cette amélioration

est due en grande partie à l'immense développement donné à la culture de la luzerne (alfalfa) qui pousse remarquablement bien dans de grandes prairies et donne, à bon marché, d'excellents bœufs et de bons moutons. La culture du blé augmente peu à peu vers la région méridionale de la contrée qui est plus à l'abri des sauterelles que la région nord."

APPROFONDISSEMENT DU CANAL D'ACCÈS DU PORT DE SANTA-FÉ.

Il est question d'approfondir le canal d'accès du port de Santa-Fé et d'y exécuter de sérieux travaux d'aménagement.

Le ministre des travaux publics de la République ayant formellement promis de faire procéder aux études nécessaires avant la fin de l'année, afin d'être en mesure de mettre l'année prochaine l'entreprise de ces travaux en adjudication, ces renseignements peuvent, dès lors, intéresser les maisons des Etats-Unis qui voudraient y prendre part.

BOLIVIE.

DROITS D'ENTRÉE.

Aux termes d'un décret du Gouvernement de la Bolivie, rendu en date du 2 juin 1899, le droit additionnel de 20 pour 100 à percevoir sur les sommes payées à la douane bolivienne pour acquittement des droits d'entrée est porté à 40 pour cent à partir de cette date.

Les droits à percevoir à la sortie de la Bolivie sont relevés à 1 bolivien pour le minerai d'étain, à 1 bolivien 60 pour l'étain en barres et à 3 boliviens pour le bismuth, par unité de 64 kilogrammes.

BRÉSIL.

DÉVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL.

Le 3 juin dernier, le "Capitão de mare e guerra," Mr. JOSÉ CARLOS DE CARVALHO, a publié dans le "Jornal do Commercio" une très intéressante étude concernant les récentes diminutions sensibles qui se sont produites dans l'importation étrangère de divers articles de première nécessité et d'alimentation courante. Dans ce rapport, Mr. DE CARVALHO s'applique à démontrer que ce ralentissement d'importation est dû au développement appréciable de la production nationale de ces mêmes articles. En effet, pendant les dernières années la production de diverses denrées, telles que le riz, le saindoux, la viande sèche, le maïs, le lard et les bougies, et qui autrefois étaient achetées à l'étranger, a pris une grande extension.

Mr. DE CARVALHO donne aussi un tableau comparatif embrassant les importations à Rio Janeiro des articles précités de 1894 à 1898.

D'après ce tableau, les importations du lard, qui en 1894 se montaient à 11,150,820 kilogrammes, sont tombées en 1896 à 6,302,040 kilogrammes et en 1898 à 3,456,016 kilogrammes, soit, en cinq années, une perte pour les provenances étrangères de près de 500 pour cent. Le saindoux est tombé de 4,928,868 kilogrammes en 1894 à 2,906,190 kilogrammes en 1898. Le son, venant presque exclusivement de Buenos-Ayres, se produit actuellement sur place, et les arrivages de la Plata sont tombés de 158,669 sacs en 1894 à 62,374 sacs en 1896 et à 8,335 sacs en 1898. Les importations de farine ont aussi diminué de 100 pour cent, passant de 603,320 barriques en 1894 à 375,935 en 1896 et 273,137 en 1898. Les importations de l'alfalfa en 1894 se montaient à 20,257,564 kilogrammes, tandis qu'en 1898 elles ne s'élevaient qu'à 13,939,303 kilogrammes, cette diminution étant due à l'extension de la culture de l'alfalfa dans les Etats de Minas et du sud du Brésil. Le maïs a passé de 859,833 sacs en 1894 et 1,496,556 sacs en 1896 à 422,286 sacs en 1898; cette perte de plus de 200 pour cent sur les arrivages est due à la production de cette denrée dans les Etats de Minas, de Sao Paulo et de Rio Grande. Il en est de même pour le riz importé des Indes Britanniques, qui de 1,914,015 sacs en 1894 est successivement tombé à 1,240,833 sacs en 1896 et 1,130,324 sacs en 1898.

Quant à la viande sèche, les importations n'ont pas subi une diminution aussi forte; la quantité importée en 1898 était de 42,666,780 kilogrammes au lieu de 55,762,710 kilogrammes en 1896 et 47,165,434 kilogrammes en 1894. Les importations du beurre ont aussi diminué de plus de 50 pour cent à cause de l'importance prise par l'industrie beurrière dans les Etats de Minas, de Santa Catharina, de Rio Grande et de Rio-Janeiro; la quantité de beurre importée en 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, et 1898 était respectivement 69.551 kilogrammes, 63,182 kilogrammes, 57,738 kilogrammes, 51,243 kilogrammes, et 44,478 kilogrammes.

Parmi les articles énumérés par Mr. le Capitaine José de Carvalho, et dont les importations ont diminué, sont les bougies dont les provenances françaises constituent 50 pour cent de l'importation générale étrangère. En 1894 les importations de cet article sur la place de Rio Janeiro se montaient à 14,551 caisses; en 1896 elles se chiffraient à 10,176 caisses, et en 1898 elles tombaient à 5,898 caisses. Cette diminution est un effet de la concurrence de l'industrie locale. Les pâtes alimentaires ont vu aussi leurs arrivages passer de 33,972 kilogrammes en 1894, au chiffre presque insignifiant de 1,101 kilogrammes en 1898. Cette grande diminution est due à l'établissement de nombreuses fabriques de pâtes alimentaires dans le pays et qui sont dirigées par des Italiens. Quant aux allumettes, elles sont toutes fabriquées dans le pays et proviennent généralement des nombreuses et importantes fabriques de Rio, São Paulo et Curityba. L'importation du gin a subi également une diminution assez sensible, les envois de l'étranger étant tombés de 26,191 caisses en 1894 à 11,286 caisses en 1898. Le pétrole venant des Etats-Unis présente un léger ralentissement dans ses

arrivages, dû à l'augmentation de la production locale, les importations ayant été en 1894 de 485,933 caisses et en 1898 de 430,286 caisses.

SERVICE POSTAL MENSUEL AVEC LA FRANCE.

D'après le "Nouveau Monde" du 9 septembre 1899 le Conseil Supérieur de la marine marchande française a adopté, dans sa dernière séance, une motion exprimant ses vœux en faveur:

1°. De l'établissement d'un service postal mensuel et commercial entre la France, le Para et Manaos.

2°. De l'établissement de relations maritimes régulières entre la France et la côte sud-américaine du Pacifique, en appliquant la surprime à tous les navires destinés à desservir ces pays, avec lesquels les communications sérieuses manquent depuis la liquidation de la Compagnie maritime du Pacifique.

Le Ministre de la Marine a été prié de transmettre ces résolutions au Ministre du Commerce et de l'Industrie avec un avis favorable.

RENOUVELLEMENT DU CONTRAT DE LA COMPAGNIE "PROGRESSO COLONIAL."

Mr. SIGISMUNDO ANTONIO GONÇALVES, Vice-président du Sénat et actuellement à la tête du gouvernement de Pernambuco en l'absence de Mr. CERREA DE ARAUJO, gouverneur, a décidé de renouveler le contrat de la Compagnie "Progresso Colonial" concessionnaire d'une usine à sucre du même nom.

En revanche, jusqu'en 1907, et à des échéances fixes, la Compagnie sera tenue d'effectuer le paiement des 100 contos 819,000 reis qu'elle doit au Gouvernement et à payer par échéances mensuelles de 45 contos la somme de 500 contos qui sera employée au paiement de l'intérêt et à l'amortissement de l'emprunt fait par la Compagnie en 1895.

L'EXPORTATION DU CAOUTCHOUC PAR BELEM.

Pendant le mois de juin 1899 il a été exporté de Bélem: 1,332,245 kilog. de caoutchouc, dont 791,289 kilog. pour l'Europe et 540,956 kilog. pour les Etats-Unis. Le total général des exportations comprenait: 533,931 kilog. de caoutchouc fin; 78,035 kilog. de caoutchouc demi-fin; 284,496 kilog. de sernamby, et 436,483 kilog. de caucho. Du total de l'exportation, 458,540 kilogrammes provenaient de Manaos.

La quantité de caoutchouc exporté pendant le premier semestre de l'année en cours a été de 9,441,988 kilog., dont 3,103,452 kilog. pour l'Europe et 6,338,536 kilog. pour les Etats-Unis. Suivant la qualité, on a enregistré: caoutchouc fin, 5,271,167 kilog.; caoutchouc demi-fin, 773,288 kilog.; sernamby, 2,559,759 kilog., et caucho, 897,774 kilog.

HONDURAS BRITANNIQUE (BÉLIZE).

PROJET DE CHEMIN DE FER.

Actuellement, les seuls moyens pour pénétrer dans l'intérieur de l'Honduras Britannique sont de traverser en canot les nombreuses rivières et de parcourir à cheval les chemins réservés aux cavaliers. Le 22 juillet 1899 le Secrétaire d'Etat Anglais pour les Colonies a adressé au Gouverneur de Bélize un rapport au sujet d'une proposition faite par Mr. R. W. PERKS, membre du Parlement, pour la construction et l'exploitation d'un chemin de fer dans la colonie. Ce projet comprend une jetée à Bélize et aussi l'extension de la voie ferrée qui se terminera à une place nommée "La Libertad" ou "Flores" dans la province de Peten de Guatemala ou dans les environs.

Mr. PERKS demande une concession de 75,000 livres sterling ($364,899), payable en cinq termes de 15,000 livres-sterling chacun, quand un certain nombre donné de milles aura été achevé dans chaque section de la voie ferrée et livrés au trafic; il désire aussi obtenir une concession de terrain de 200,000 acres qui seront divisés en cinq parties de 40,000 acres, délivrés au fur et à mesure que les sections de la ligne seront terminées et ouvertes au trafic.

Le 15 août, l'assemblée législative a accepté la proposition de Mr. PERKS en recommandant toutefois que, si elle était approuvée par Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Ministre des Colonies de sa Majesté Britannique, les travaux ne devraient pas commencer plus tard que le mois de février 1900.

Mr. WILLIAM L. AVERY, Consul des Etats-Unis à Belize, dans un rapport qu'il a adressé le 22 août à ce sujet, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington dit, que si la République de Guatemala permettait que cette voie ferrée fût construite à Peten, il y aurait dans le district un grand commerce d'acajou et de bois de campêche et que la culture des fruits et l'agriculture se développeraient dans l'intérieur de Bélize, ces industries étant maintenant sur les confins de la côte. Ce fonctionnaire ajoute que quoiqu'il soit vrai que cette proposition ait été faite par des capitalistes Anglais, il est hors de doute que tout le matériel sera acheté aux Etats-Unis parce que tous les chemins de fer qui sont actuellement en exploitation dans le Honduras, le Guatemala et Costa-Rica sont équipés avec du matériel roulant et des machines provenant de ce pays et cela se fit à Costa Rica au détriment du matériel étranger qui était déjà en usage dans cette République.

Mr. AVERY est d'avis qu'un projet de chemin de fer quelqu'il soit augmentera le commerce de Bélize avec les Etats-Unis et vice versa.

CHILI.

INSTRUCTIONS IMPORTANTES AUX EXPÉDITEURS DE MARCHANDISES.

Le 8 Août 1899, Mr. JOHN C. COVERT, Consul des Etats-Unis à Lyon (France), a adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington la traduction d'une communication transmise récemment à plusieurs Chambres de Commerce de France par la Chambre de Commerce Française de Santiago de Chili, dans l'espoir que ces renseignements importants pourront être utiles aux citoyens des Etats-Unis qui entretiennent des relations commerciales avec le Chili. En voici la teneur:

Actuellement, la majorité des maisons françaises qui font des affaires avec le Chili écrivent les noms de l'acquéreur réel ou consignataire sur les connaissements. Cependant, aussi naturel que cela puisse paraître, ce n'en est pas moinsdangereux. Il peut arriver que, entre le départ de la commande et l'arrivée des marchandises au Chili, la situation de l'acheteur ait matériellement changé. Alors, la Banque ou l'agent chargés de remettre les documents, et qui peuvent désirer empêcher la livraison des marchandises, se trouvent dans une situation embarrassante, parceque les connaissements étant au nom de l'acheteur ou de consignataire, lui ou son agent, s'il a fait faillite, ont le droit de saisir les marchandises à la Douane. Si le banqueroutier ou son représentant ne réclament pas les marchandises, les employés de l'octroi les garderont en Douane et le vendeur, pour rentrer en possession de son bien, sera obligé d'intenter un procès afin d'obtenir l'annulation du contrat, ce qui est loin d'être facile et peut devenir aisément très onéreux.

Pour remédier à ces inconvénients, il est seulement nécessaire pour l'expéditeur de se conformer aux règles suivantes:

1° Si les connaissements sont remis à l'acheteur ou au consignataire en échange d'une lettre de change, le meilleur moyen à employer est de faire les connaissements au nom d'une banque qui les endossera et les échangera pour la lettre de change acceptée.

2° Si l'acceptation immédiate d'une lettre de change n'est pas exigée, on peut s'entendre avec une banque, lui adresser le connaissement et l'employer comme intermédiaire. Ce moyen coûtera probablement une légère commission, mais il sera meilleur marché que de perdre les marchandises.

Si les connaissements doivent être remis par un agent à l'acheteur ou au consignataire, it est plus sage de les envoyer directement à l'agent.

En employant ces moyens, les expéditeurs éviteront des surprises désagréables et bien des difficultés, car rien ne les empêchera, en cas d'une faillite, de réclamer de droit les marchandises embarquées.

COLOMBIE.

VENTE EXTRAORDINAIRE D'ÉMERAUDES.

À la date du 21 juillet 1899, l'Honorable CHARLES BURDETT HART, Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Etats-Unis à Bogotá, a fait parvenir au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington un rapport dans lequel il décrit les scènes extraordinaires qui se sont produites par suite des demandes considérables d'émeraudes dans cette ville pendant le mois précité. Il n'y a pas bien longtemps, dit ce haut fonctionnaire, que les émeraudes étaient une drogue sur le marché de Bogotá. Les personnes qui désiraient alors en acheter n'avaient qu'à attendre qu'on vînt les leur apporter. La fameuse mine Muzo qui a produit une quantité considérable d'émeraudes d'une très grande valeur est située dans les environs de Bogotá et les habitants de cette ville connaissent depuis longtemps cette pierre précieuse. Cette mine est exploitée par une compagnie française qui prétend, pendant les dix années qui viennent de s'écouler, n'avoir trouvé qu'une très faible quantité d'émeraudes. Cependant, qu'elles proviennent de ces mines ou d'autres, les émeraudes brutes ont continué à se trouver à Bogotá, et quant à celles taillées, montées, ou non montées, elles ont abondé sur le marché. La pénurie d'argent a contraint beaucoup de personnes de vendre leurs héritages auxquels elles tenaient énormément et ces biens de famille ont été généralement achetés à des prix dérisoires.

Vers le 10 juillet, la ville de Bogotá s'éveilla en constatant qu'elle venait d'être saisie de la passion violente des émeraudes. Les magasins des bijoutiers, et les autres établissements de ce genre, furent assiégés par une multitude de personnes désireuses d'acheter ces pierres, d'autres de les vendre; en conséquence, une foule immense encombrait les rues et les trottoirs, quelques personnes étalant leurs marchandises, d'autres leur argent. Un bijoutier, dont le magasin est situé dans un des quartiers principaux de Bogotá, fut obligé d'avoir recours à la police pour repousser la foule qui envahissait son établissement. Bientôt la nouvelle se répandit au dehors de la ville et les acheteurs d'émeraudes commencèrent à affluer, grossissant ainsi la foule et augmentant encore davantage cette fièvre populaire.

On vendait partout et à des prix inconnus jusqu'ici sur le marché. Les personnes qui n'avaient aucune idée de vendre, voyant que tout le monde achetait, apportèrent leurs émeraudes et les trafiquèrent. Personne ne pouvait s'expliquer alors la cause de cette excitation et beaucoup commencent maintenant à comprendre qu'il n'en existait aucune. Au bout de cinq jours la fièvre atteignit son maximum et commença dès lors à diminuer. Pendant toute sa durée, les émeraudes se vendirent, au prix de l'or, trois fois environ la valeur qu'elles avaient avant

cette crise et on estime que jusqu'au 21 juillet, quatre millions de pesos environ ont circulé par suite de cette fureur.

Quand les esprits furent calmés et que la foule fut dispersée, un grand nombre d'acheteurs se trouvèrent possesseurs d'émeraudes qui ne valaient pas le prix qu'ils avaient, dans leur emportement, payé pour elles; tandis que d'autres, aussi sans aucune expérience, s'étaient rendus acquéreurs de pierres plus ou moins bonnes. Il ne semble pas que beaucoup de marchands experts aient fait des achats aussi extravagants que le reste du public, mais on croit néanmoins que quelques-uns se sont laissés entraîner au delà de leurs intérêts. La seule raison plausible qui puisse expliquer ces évènements extraordinaires est qu'un marchand de Bogotá, revenu récemment de Paris, où il était allé faire un voyage, commença à acheter, à son retour, des émeraudes à des prix plus élevés que ceux qu'on avait l'habitude de payer ordinairement sur le marché; ce fut le signal de cette agitation extraordinaire. Quelques experts prétendent que le dit négociant, voyant que les émeraudes se vendaient à Bogotá plus chères qu'en Europe, se retira avant que les prix aient atteint leur maximum.

ÉQUATEUR.

EXPORTATIONS DE CAOUTCHOUC.

Dans un récent rapport, le Consul Anglais à Guayaquil écrit que les demandes croissantes de caoutchouc ont attiré de nouveau l'attention sur ce produit de l'Equateur que l'on recueille maintenant d'arbres qui poussent dans les forêts de l'intérieur, éloignées des côtes de la mer, où son extraction était précédemment considérée peu lucrative à cause des frais de transport. Comme, cependant, depuis plusieurs années, la valeur du caoutchouc brut a presque doublé, il y a donc bénéfice à le récolter et à le transporter.

Le Consul rapporte qu'une grande quantité de caoutchouc qui était jadis exporté aux Etats-Unis va maintenant à Londres et dans les autres ports Européens.

Dans l'Equateur, les prix reçus pour le caoutchouc brut, aux ports d'embarquement, varient de 9 livres sterling ($43.80) à 10 livres sterling ($48.66) par 100 livres. En 1897 les exportations de caoutchouc provenant de Guayaquil, se sont montées à 590,400 livres, évaluées à $299,831, en valeur courante des Etats-Unis. En 1898, la quantité exportée était 932,400 livres, valant $454,192, soit une augmentation de près de 100 pour cent dans la valeur totale de ce produit.

GUATÉMALA.

CONVENTION ENTRE LE ROYAUME-UNI ET LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE GUATEMALA.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande-Bretagne (Foreign Office) a fait publier (Treaty Séries No. 16) la convention qui a été conclue entre le Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande et la République de Guatémala, relative aux marques de fabrique. Ce traité a été signé le 20 juillet 1898 à Guatémala, et les ratifications ont été échangées dans la même ville le 28 juillet 1898. Voici la teneur de ce document:

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, etc., et Son Excellence le Président de la République de Guatémala, désireux de conclure une convention pour la protection mutuelle des marques de fabrique et dessins, ont à cet effet nommé leurs Plénipotentiaires, à savoir:

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande, Impératrice des Indes, etc., GEORGE BIRT JENNER, Esquire, Son Ministre Résident dans l'Amérique Centrale;

Et Son Excellence le Président de Guatémala, le Docteur FRANCISCO ANGUIANO, Secrétaire d'Etat du Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Justice, Chargé des affaires étrangères;

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, qui ont été trouvés en bonne et due forme, ont arrêté les dispositions suivantes:

ARTICLE I. Les sujets ou les citoyens de chacune des parties contractantes jouiront dans les domaines et les possessions de l'autre partie des mêmes droits qui sont accordés maintenant ou qui peuvent être accordés ultérieurement aux sujets ou aux citoyens dans tout ce qui a rapport aux marques de fabrique, dessins industriels et modèles. Afin de pouvoir obtenir la jouissance de ces droits, il sera nécessaire de se conformer aux formalités requises par les lois des pays respectifs.

ART. II. Les stipulations contenues dans la présente convention seront appliquables à toutes les Colonies et possessions à l'étranger de sa Majesté Britannique, à l'exception de celles ci-après mentionnées, c'est à dire, l'Inde Anglaise, le Dominion du Canada, Terre-Neuve, le Cap de Bonne-Espérance, Natal, la Nouvelle-Galles, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, l'Australie Méridionale, l'Australie Occidentale, et la Nouvelle Zélande. Il est bien entendu que les clauses contenues dans la présente convention seront applicables à n'importe quelles colonies ou possessions étrangères ci-dessus mentionnées pourvu que le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la République de Guatémala ait été informé à cet effet par le Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, avant l'expiration de l'année qui commencera le jour de l'échange des ratifications de la présente convention.

ART. III. La présente convention sera ratifiée le plus tôt possible et sera en vigueur pendant cinq années lesquelles commenceront à courir un mois après l'échange des ratifications qui aura lieu dans la ville de Guatémala. Cependant, si un an avant l'expiration de ce terme, aucune des deux parties contractantes n'a manifesté à l'autre, au moyen d'une déclaration officielle, son intention d'annuler cette convention, elle continuera à avoir son effet pendant une année après la dite déclaration.

En foi de quoi les dits Plénipotentiaires ont signé la présente convention et y ont apposé leurs sceaux.

RELATIONS COMMERCIALES AVEC LA FRANCE.

D'après une communication récente de Mr. GOUBAUD, Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France à Guatémala, les rapports commerciaux qui existaient, il y a quelques années, entre la France et le Guatémala, étaient assez importants, alors que les navires français, principalement du port de Bordeaux, visitaient les ports de Guatémala, avec leur plein chargement, prenant comme fret de retour des cafés, caoutchouc, bois jaune, etc. Actuellement, les compagnies de navigation anglaises et allemandes transportent directement, via Magellan, les marchandises venant de l'Europe; et celles par Colon et Panama arrivent à destination par vapeurs américains, tandis que les pavillons français ont cessé de paraître dans ces mers.

Pendant l'année 1898, 440,543 colis de diverses marchandises, ayant une valeur déclarée de 3,880,668 pesos, soit 19,403,340 francs environ, sont entrés par les ports du Guatémala. Dans ce nombre, la France figure seulement pour 9,666 colis, ayant une valeur de 217,337 pesos, soit 1 million 86,688 francs, environ. Les Etats-Unis, par leur commerce d'exportation exceptionnellement développé avec le Guatémala, forment la moitié environ de la totalité ci-dessus, la France occupant seulement le quatrième rang dans l'échelle commerciale de ce pays et y exportant les vins et liqueurs, les eaux de vie, la droguerie et les médicaments, la parfumerie fine et les articles de fantaisie. L'Allemagne occupe le deuxième rang et exporte des machines et beaucoup d'articles manufacturés. L'Angleterre tient le troisième rang et 50 pour cent de ses exportations se composent de cottonnades et de toile.

Antérieurement, la France exportait à Guatémala une grande quantité de produits naturels et manufacturés, tels que: tous les articles de fantaisie en bronze, cuivre, les livres imprimés, la droguerie, etc.. mais adjourd'hui ce pays est obligé de lutter péniblement avec les Etats-Unis dont les exportations, pour ces mêmes marchandises, égalent celles de la France.

Les villes de Guatémala, Quezaltenango et Retalhulen sont les principaux centres commerciaux où les négociants des localités environnantes vont s'approvisionner.

MEXIQUE.

RECETTES DOUANIÈRES.

Pendant le mois d'août 1899, les recettes douanières ont continué d'être des plus satisfaisantes et ont atteint $2,363,000, soit une augmentation de $260,000 sur celles du mois de juillet 1899, et de $376,000 sur celles du mois d'août 1898. Pour les deux premiers mois du nouvel exercice fiscal, elles se sont élevées à $4,466,000 contre $3,659,000 pendant la période correspondante de l'exercice antérieur.

Voici le tableau comparatif des recettes mensuelles durant les cinq derniers exercices:

Mois.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.
Juillet	$2,103,000	$1,672,000	$1,645,000	$1,703,000	$1,599,000
Août	2,363,000	1,987,000	1,919,000	1,945,000	1,754,000
Septembre		2,085,000	1,675,000	1,943,000	1,758,000
Octobre		2,149,000	1,858,000	2,035,000	2,031,000
Novembre		2,433,000	1,980,000	2,030,000	2,237,000
Décembre		2,424,000	2,210,000	2,292,000	1,890,000
Janvier		2,349,000	1,881,000	2,036,000	2,153,000
Février		2,182,000	1,775,000	1,902,000	2,023,006
Mars		2,293,000	2,080,000	2,074,000	2,071,000
Avril		2,568,000	1,915,000	1,684,000	1,952,000
Mai		2,471,000	1,889,000	1,782,000	1,855,000
Juin		2,932,000	1,985,000	1,863,000	1,753,000
Total	4,466,000	27,548,000	22,712,000	23,289,000	23,076,000

Les recettes du timbre ont produit en juillet 1899 $2,258,568, contre $2,014,483 en juillet 1898.

EMPRUNT DE L'ETAT DE DURANGO.

Le Gouvernement de l'Etat de Durango négocie actuellement un emprunt d'un million de dollars, or, avec une Banque de Chicago. Cet emprunt est destiné aux travaux des eaux et des égouts de la ville et à la construction d'une prison et d'un hôpital.

PÉROU.

INDUSTRIES MANUFACTURIÈRES.

Les industries manufacturières du Pérou pourraient occuper dans la vie économique du pays, une place beaucoup plus considérable que celle que la statistique leur assigne en ce moment. De nombreuses fabriques ont réussi à se développer et constituent aujourd'hui un élément vital important. Il existe au Pérou des cordonneries dont la plus importante est la maison GAGLIARDO, qui emploie un certain nombre de machines et une centaine d'ouvriers; des fabriques de cravates; des fonderies, qui constituent une branche industrielle de la plus haute

importance et dont les principales sont celles de "Piedra Liza" (70 ouvriers), de SCHOFIELD et d'ASHFORD. Presque toutes ces fonderies sont dirigées par des Anglais. On trouve aussi au Pérou des fabriques de biscuits; celle de FIELD ET CIE. est une des plus anciennes. Quelques mégisseries existent aussi dans ce pays mais un seul de ces établissements a une certaine importance, c'est celui dirigé sous la raison sociale de A. LABROUSSE ET CIE.; il fabrique des veaux cirés d'une trés bonne qualité.

Des fabriques de meubles existant à Lima, les deux principales sont celles de MALHERBE ET CIE. et de HOCHKOPPLER, qui employent en moyenne cinquante ouvriers chacune. Les bois employés par ces fabriques sont, pour la plus grande partie, le cèdre de l'Amérique et une certaine quantité de noyer d'Europe ou des Etats-Unis; les placages viennent aussi en grande partie d'Europe.

On compte à Lima plusieurs minoteries, dont quelques unes appartiennent à des Italiens ou à des Espagnols. Le blé employé provient en grande partie du Chili et la farine de ces moulins est destinée à la consommation intérieure; une faible partie s'exporte vers Guayaquil.

L'industrie des pâtes alimentaires a pris une certaine extension due à la colonie itatienne qui en fait une grande consommation. Il n'existe aucune fabrique de produits pharmaceutiques au Pérou, mais quelques pharmaciens établis à Lima en élaborent quelques spécialités.

Quelques savonneries existent à Lima, on y trouve aussi un certain nombres de marchands de bois et plussieurs scieries. Quelques bois proviennent de la Norvège et des Etats-Unis (pin, cèdre, etc.).

L'industrie des tabacs est une des principales de Lima. Plus de trois mille ouvriers sont employés à la fabrication des cigares, et plus encore des cigarettes, dans les diverses fabriques de la capitale.

Les tanneries de Lima sont au nombre de neuf, dont deux sont dirigées par des Français. Il y a aussi des fabriques de tissus de coton et de laine. La fabrique la plus importante de tissus de laine à Lima est celle de Santa Catalina, fondée avec des capitaux péruviens et dirigée par des Italiens.

On peut citer encore quelques fabriques de peu d'importance pour la confection des articles suivants: balais, chocolats, billiards, huiles, pianos, selles, allumettes, etc.

LA PRODUCTION DU CUIVRE.

Il y a deux ans, la cessation de la frappe libre de l'argent a occasionné une dépression dans l'industrie des mines d'argent, et de nombreuses mines sont restées inexploitées. En 1898, pour la première fois dans les annales de la mine de Cerro de Pasco, qui a été seulement exploitée comme expérience pour l'argent qu'elle contenait, quelques minerais de cuivre furent envoyés en Angleterre à l'époque où le prix du cuivre se côtait 52 livres sterling la tonne. Ces minerais se vendirent si bien, qu'un nombre d'ouvriers furent embauchés et, avant l'expiration de l'année, 50 ou 60 mineurs furent employés dans l'exportation des min-

erais de cuivre. Actuellement, le rendement est d'environ 3,000 tonnes par mois, deux tiers desquelles sont entassées à Cerro de Pasco, faute de moyens de transport, 1,000 tonnes seulement par mois pouvant être envoyées à Oroya, tête de ligne du chemin de fer, et pour lesquelles les frais de transport coûtent une moyenne de 8 livres sterling environ la tonne.

D'Oroya, ces minerais sont expédiés à Callao par chemin de fer et pour le prix de 1 livre sterling, 10 shillings la tonne et finalement embarqués pour Liverpool ou Swansea, le fret et toutes les dépenses se montant environ à 3 livres sterling la tonne. Tous les minerais actuellement en exploitation sont de la plus grande richesse, produisent une moyenne de 35 à 40 pour cent, et se vendent à Liverpool un prix moyen de 25 livres sterling la tonne. La construction d'une voie ferrée d'Oroya à Cerro de Pasco développera énormément l'industrie du cuivre et réduira les dépenses actuelles de chaque tonne de minerai expédié à Liverpool de 14 livres sterling à 7 livres sterling ou peut-être moins.

On a calculé que la quantité de minerai que l'on dit avoir en vue, se monte à cinq ou six millions de tonnes, ce qui semble être confirmé par les dépenses de la production qui, malgré les moyens primitifs employés pour l'exploitation, ne dépassent pas le prix minime de 6 à 8 shillings la tonne.

ETATS-UNIS.

CHARBON POUR LES VAISSEAUX DE GUERRE.

Jadis, les gouvernements étrangers considéraient que le charbon de Cardiff, Wales, était le type par excellence et qu'on ne pouvait pas en trouver de meilleur. Récemment, cependant, dit la "Nautical Gazette" du mois de septembre 1899, l'Amirauté Française a fait faire des recherches et il résulte des investigations de Mr. le Lieutenant FARAMOND, l'Attaché Naval de l'Ambassade Française à Washington, que le charbon qui provient de certaines mines des Etats-Unis est d'un emploi supérieur dans les vaisseaux de guerre à celui de n'importe quel pays. Quoique Mr. FARAMOND soit convaincu que le charbon des Etats-Unis dégage une plus grande quantité de fumée que le charbon galois, il brûle cependant beaucoup mieux, produit plus vite de la vapeur, ce qui est très important, ne contient aucune scorie et la quantité de cendre qui reste après sa combustion est moins grande que celle des autres charbons. Le charbon employé par les vaisseaux de guerre des Etats-Unis, pendant la guerre qui a eu lieu récemment avec l'Expagne, a donné toute satisfaction. La rapidité avec laquelle se produit la vapeur, la lenteur avec laquelle il brûle, le feu ardent que produit sa combustion, le rendent supérieur à toutes les autres qualités. La Gazette croit que son emploi dans les marines étrangères n'est qu'une affaire de temps.

CHARRUES À VAPEUR DANS LES ISLES SANDWICH.

Le 17 août 1899, Mr. Wm. Haywood, Consul Général, a informé le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington que des charrues à vapeur fabriquées par la maison O. S. Kelley, de Springfield, Ohio, ont été débarquées, il y a quelques jours, à Honolulu et livrées à l'"American Sugar Company." Ces charrues sont les premières de ce genre construites aux Etats-Unis, celles provenant jadis de ce pays n'avaient pas de cable mais fonctionnaient au moyen d'une locomobile tirant la charrue. Autrefois, toutes les charrrues à vapeur étaient importées d'Ecosse, parce qu'elles étaient bon marché et qu'aucune maison des Etats-Unis n'avait jusque là construit ce genre de machines agricoles. Les charrues coûtent $20,000, tout le système complet, et ont été livrées en quarante jours de moins qu'on aurait pu se les procurer d'Ecosse.

Mr. Haywood écrit que l'on a estimé que pendant les trois années prochaines on aura besoin d'environ 20 ou 30 charrues pour les nouvelles plantations. Elles seront toutes achetées aux Etats-Unis si celles qui viennent d'être reçues donnent des résultats satisfaisants.

CONDITIONS DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES AU 1er OCTOBRE 1899.

Le rapport du Statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis estime que la condition moyenne du maïs au 1er octobre 1899 était 82.7 au lieu de 85.2 le 1er septembre 1899, 82 le 1er october 1898, et 81.9 la moyenne des récoltes du mois d'octobre pendant les dix dernières années. Aucun changement important ne s'est fait remarquer pendant le mois de septembre dans les Etats où le maïs est la récolte principale.

Les rapports individuels que les fermiers ont l'habitude d'envoyer, et le résultat des investigations faites avec soin par un agent spécial, sur les conditions des principaux Etats qui produisent du blé du printemps et d'hiver, n'étant pas encore parvenus au Ministère, il est impossible, pour le moment, d'estimer par acre le rendement de la récolte.

Les rapports préliminaires du rendement, par acre, de l'avoine accusent 30.7 boisseaux au lieu de 27.8 boisseaux en 1898 et 25.8 boisseaux, la moyenne des dix années précédentes. La condition moyenne est de 89.5 au lieu de 84.5 en 1898 et 87.6 en 1897.

L'estimation préliminaire de la récolte de l'orge, par acre, était 27 boisseaux au lieu de 21.6 boisseaux en 1898 et 23 boisseaux, la moyenne des récoltes pendant les dix dernières années. La moyenne de la condition accuse 88.4 contre 90.6 en 1898 et 87.6 en 1897.

La récolte par acre du seigle est évaluée à 14.4 boisseaux contre 15.6 boisseaux en 1898 et 13.7 boisseaux, la moyenne des 10 années précédentes. La moyenne de la condition accuse 90 au lieu de 90.2 en 1898 et 92.7 en 1897.

Quant au blé sarrasin, la condition moyenne était 70.2 contre 75.2 le 1er septembre 1899; 76.2 le 1er octobre 1898, et 84.2 la moyenne du mois d'octobre pendant dix années.

La condition moyenne de la pomme de terre au 1er octobre 1899 était 81.1 au lieu de 86.3 le 1er septembre 1899; 72.5 le 1er octobre 1898, et 73.1 la moyenne du mois d'octobre pendant 10 années.

Les rapports concernant la canne à sucre ont été un tant soit peu moins favorables que ceux du 1er septembre 1899. Une légère amélioration s'est cependant produite dans la condition du riz et du tabac.

La condition moyenne du coton était 62.4, tandis qu'elle était estimée à 68.5 le 1er septembre 1899; 75.4 le 1er octobre 1898, et 73.5 la moyenne du mois d'octobre pendant les dix dernières années.

CONGRÈS PROPOSÉ PAR LES PRODUCTEURS DE CAOUTCHOUC.

Le "India Rubber World" du 1er septembre 1899 rapporte qu'un congrès composé des savants les plus notables et des principaux manufacturiers intéressés dans la culture du caoutchouc se réunira en 1900 pendant le progrès de l'Exposition de Paris. Cette assemblée discutera et étudiera, dans la capitale de la France, les différentes méthodes pour la production du caoutchouc et les moyens à employer pour la conservation des arbres qui le produisent, pour les empêcher de dépérir et pour les protéger contre les spoliateurs et les voleurs. Ce congrès intéressera extrêmement les producteurs de caoutchouc du Mexique et en général ceux des Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique Centrale, qui ne manqueront certainement pas d'assister en foule aux séances; ce congrès étant d'une extrême importance pour tous les pays.

VENEZUELA.

DÉCISION DU TRIBUNAL D'ARBITRATION.

Le 3 octobre 1899, le Tribunal d'Arbitration siégeant à Paris, France, a tranché le différend qui existait entre la République de Vénézuéla et la Guyane Anglaise, au sujet de la délimitation des frontières entre ces deux pays.

Cet arrêt terminera, en toute probabilité, la controverse qui a existé pendant plus de cinquante ans et qui, occasionnellement, a donné lieu à des bruits de guerre.

Le territoire contesté s'étend depuis le fleuve Essequibo, à l'est, jusqu'aux environs des rivières Caroni et Orinoco à l'ouest, et depuis l'Océan Atlantique en se dirigeant vers le sud jusqu'à la frontière du Brésil. Le Vénézuéla réclamait l'extrême frontière formée par le fleuve Essequibo qui a été, dit-on, la frontière primitive entre les colonies espagnole et hollandaise. D'autre part, le Gouvernement Britannique prétendait que la ligne de démarcation commençait au "Point Barima" (Punta Barima) à l'embouchure de l'Orinoco, coulant vers le sud-ouest et l'est presque parallèlement à l'Orinoco et à une distance de 40 à 60 milles de cette rivière jusqu'à Upata; de ce dernier point, se dirigeant vers le sud, elle traversait la vallée du Caroni, suivant de près cette rivière et tournant ensuite vers le sud-ouest et l'est en se dirigeant vers la montagne Roraima et la frontière brésilienne.

La prétention de l'Angleterre était fondée sur le fait que, en 1781 et 1796, quand la Grande-Bretagne s'empara des Colonies hollandaises,

les autorités anglaises fixèrent la limite occidentale de leurs possessions au moyen d'une ligne partant d'un point à l'ouest de Point Barima, en montant le cours de l'Orinoco et suivant le partage des eaux entre les vallées de l'Orinoco et Essequibo. En 1814, la Grande-Bretagne obtint de la Hollande, par un traité, le droit formel sur les territoires conquis et dont les limites étaient, à ce qu'on prétendait, celles mentionnées plus haut. En 1840, Sir ROBERT SCHOMBURGK fut chargé d'aller établir une ligne de démarcation entre le Vénézuéla et la Guyane anglaise.

D'après Lord SALISBURY, Sir ROBERT recommanda de faire un compromis au moyen duquel la Grande-Bretagne renoncerait à ses prétentions à une frontière s'étendant vers l'intérieur à condition que le Vénézuéla reconnût formellement les droits de la Grande-Bretagne au Point Barima. Le résultat de cette proposition fut la fameuse "ligne Schomburgk" qui partait de l'embouchure de la rivière Barima et se dirigeait vers le sud jusqu'à la montagne Roraima, sans suivre le courant d'une rivière, ni d'une chaine de montagnes ou aucune autre ligne naturelle. Le Gouvernement de Vénézuéla protesta contre cette ligne et, en conséquence, la Grande-Bretagne déclara que ce n'était "simplement qu'une tentative" et ordonna que les jalons fussent retirés. Lord SALISBURY, cependant, déclara que "quoique cette concession ait été faite, il fallait bien comprendre que la Grande-Bretagne ne renonçait nullement pour cela, aux droits qu'elle réclamait au sujet de la dite ligne."

Quelques temps après, Lord ABERDEEN proposa une ligne partant de l'embouchure de la rivière Moroco, parcourant la direction est et sud-ouest jusqu'à la jonction des rivières Cuyuni et Yurnari et de ce point remontant le Cuyuni jusqu'à la montagne Roraima. En réponse à cette proposition, Vénézuéla suggéra une ligne droite qui partait de l'embouchure de la rivière Moroco jusqu'à la source de l'Essequibo, coïncidant avec le 59ème méridien de longitude. Le Gouvernement britannique, à la suite de ceci, retourna alors à ses anciennes prétentions, c'est-à-dire, à la ligne Schomburgk. Plus tard, Lord GRANVILLE proposa une ligne commencant à l'embouchure du Barima jusqu'à la jonction des rivières Acarabisi et Cuyuni et de là coïncidant avec la ligne proposée par Lord ABERDEEN. Finalement, la Grande Bretagne retira les "concessions" qu'elle avait jadis faites.

Les dossiers renfermant toutes les pièces justificatives relatives à cette affaire et qui ont été produites pendant le cours de ce procès par la Grande-Bretagne, comprennent onze grands volumes, un atlas, un nombre considérable de cartes détachées, pendant que celles fournies par le Vénézuéla forment six grands volumes et trois atlas. Le 2 février 1897, les deux gouvernements convinrent de soumettre leur différend à un tribunal d'arbitration et un traité fut signé à Washington; le tribunal, cependant, ne s'assembla que le 15 juillet 1899. La décision, d'après les rapports, fut rendue à l'unaminité et fut lue par Mr. de MARTENS, l'arbitre et président du tribunal. La sentence

arbitrale finale indique que la ligne de démarcation sera à peu près la même que celle de Schomburgk. Les seuls points de différence semblent être que, après son départ de la rivière Barima, la ligne suivra le cours de quelques petites rivières et autres criques, au lieu de continuer à travers le pays.

La décision du tribunal, d'après le télégraphe, est comme suit:

Nous soussignés, par ces présentes, donnons et publions notre décision qui détermine et juge les questions qui nous ont été soumises par le dit tribunal d'arbitration et en conformité avec la dite arbitration décidons, déclarons et prononçons définitivement que la ligne frontière entre la Colonie de la Guyane anglaise et les Etats-Unis de Vénézuéla est comme suit:

"Partant de la côte à Point Playa, la frontière suivra une ligne droite jusqu'au confluent du Barima et du Katuina; de là elle suivra le bassin (thalweg) de cete dernière rivière jusqu'à la source de la rivière Corentin (autrement appelée le Cutari); la ligne continuera ensuite jusqu'au confluent du Haiowa et de l'Amakura; puis longera le bassin de l'Amakura jusqu'à sa source, dans la plaine d'Imataca; de ce point elle se dirigera vers le sud-oust, longeant le plus haut sommet des montagnes d'Imataca jusqu'au point le plus élevé de la chaîne d'Imataca qui se trouve en face de la source du fleuve Barima et de la chaîne principale des montagnes d'Imataca; delà vers le sud-ouest jusqu'à la source de l'Acarabisi en suivant le bassin de l'Acarabisi jusqu'au Cuyuni dont elle devra suivre la rive septentrionale, se dirigeant vers l'ouest jusqu'au confluent du Cuyuni et du Vanamu; de là elle côtoiera le bassin du Vanamu jusqu'à l'extrémité occidentale de sa source et ira en ligne droite jusqu'au sommet de la montagne Roraima; de là jusqu'à la source du Cotinga; de ce point, la frontière suivra le bassin du Cotinga jusqu'à son confluent avec le Takutu, puis longera le bassin de cette rivière jusqu'à sa source, et ira en ligne droite jusqu'à l'extrémité occidentale des montagnes Akari dont elle suivra le plus haut sommet jusqu'à la source du Corentin en côtoyant le cours de la rivière."

'Il est stipulé que la frontière ainsi délimitée réserve et ne porte en aucune manière préjudice aux questions qui existent actuellement ou a celles qui pourront être soulevées dans l'avenir entre la Grande-Bretagne et la République du Brésil ou entre la République du Brésil et le Venezuela. En délimitant les susdites frontières, les arbitres considèrent et décident que, en temps de paix, les rivières Amakura et Barima, seront ouvertes à la navigation de la marine marchande de toutes les nations, une juste réserve étant faite, conformément aux règles de l'équité et au paiement de droits de phare et d'autres impôts analogues, à condition que les impôts levés par le Vénézuéla et la Guyane Anglaise sur les vaisseaux qui naviguent sur les eaux des rivières leur appartenent respectivement, soient d'accord avec le même tarif imposé sur les vaisseaux vénézuéliens et anglais. Ces tarifs ne devront pas excéder ceux des autres nations.

L'arrêt renferme la condition que ni le Vénézuéla ni la Guyane Anglaise ne pourront lever aucun droit de Douane sur la cargaison des vaisseaux, bâteaux ou navires, traversant ces rivières, ces dits impôts étant levés seulement dans le cas où les marchandises seraient débarquées sur le territoire Vénézuélien ou celui de la Grande-Bretagne.

LA CULTURE DU CHANVRE (HENNEQUEN).

Le 5 août 1899, Mr. EUGÈNE H. PLUMACHER, Consul des Etats-Unis à Maracaïbo, a adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, la copie d'un contrat relatif à la culture du chanvre (hennequin) qui peut être d'une très grande importance non seulement au Vénézuéla mais encore au Mexique aussi bien qu'aux Etats-Unis. Un extrait de ce contrat est donné ci-après:

Mr. H. PIÑANGO LARA s'engage à cultiver du chanvre (hennequin) dans la République de Vénézuéla et à exploiter cette plante textile au moyen de machines les plus perfectionnées. Le Gouvernement National a consenti à lui louer le terrain nécessaire dans chacun des Etats de Zulia, Falcon et Lara, moyennant le paiement d'une rente annuelle de 10 bolivares ($1.93) par hectare (2.741 acres). Il aura aussi le droit de cultiver toutes les autres plantes textiles poussant dans les susdits terrains. Le concessionnaire s'engage à faire venir des laboureurs étrangers qui auront droit à tous les privilèges accordés par la loi sur l'immigration. Il pourra aussi introduire en franchise toutes les machines, outils, instruments d'agriculture ou autres et les semences; mais 10 pour cent de toutes les semences importées devront être données au Conseil d'Agriculture de l'Etat, pour être distribuées. L'entreprise sera exempte de toutes taxes, mais le Gouvernement recevra 5 pour cent des bénéfices, lesquels seront payés annuellement aux employés du fisc qui seront désignés à cet effet. Ce contrat peut être transféré à qui que ce soit ou à une compagnie quelconque, avec l'approbation du Gouvernement National, mais non à un Gouvernement étranger.

Le concessionnaire s'engage à introduire les machines nécessaires, etc., avant l'expiration de l'année commençant le jour où le contrat sera légalement approuvé, avec le privilège d'une prolongation d'une deuxième année, si cela est nécessaire. En conformité des clauses du contrat, une somme de 4,000 bolivares ($772) devra être déposée, comme garantie, dans une banque quelconque de Vénézuéla, avant l'expiration des six mois qui suivront l'approbation finale du contrat, la dite somme devant être retirée aussitôt que les machines seront installées. Afin de faciliter le transport de toutes les plantes textiles, des ordres seront données aux différentes Douanes. Ce contrat est complètement indépendant de ceux qui ont été passés précédemment, ou des personnes qui ont actuellement des terres et qui s'occupent de la culture des plantes textiles. Au contraire, ces personnes, moyennant une petite rémunération, auront le droit de se servir des machines installées par le concessionnaire. Une nouvelle concession peut être accordée, dans les mêmes conditions, à l'expiration de ce contrat dans le cas où l'entreprise tendrait à se développer et aurait encore besoin d'aide.

LE CONGRÈS COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL.

Le Congrès Commercial International, composé de délégués de presque tous les gouvernements civilisés et des représentants des chambres de commerce les plus importantes de tous les centres commerciaux, s'est assemblé à Philadelphie, le 12 octobre 1899, dans la salle de l'Association Nationale des Exportations.

L'Honorable DAVID J. HILL, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères des Etats-Unis, a présidé à la première séance de cette assemblée et a prononcé le discours d'ouverture et souhaité la bienvenue aux délégués.

Le discours du Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat fut suivi de celui de Mr. le Maire ASHBRIDGE qui présenta courtoisement aux délégués les hommages de la municipalité. Mr. CHARLES H. CRAMP, Président du Musée Commercial de Philadelphie, expliqua alors le but de cette réunion. Mr. W. P. WILSON, Directeur, prit ensuite la parole et donna une idée générale des nombreuses questions importantes que cette assemblée internationale traitera dans ses futures réunions.

Son Excellence le PRÉSIDENT MCKINLEY se trouvant dans l'impossibilité d'être présent et de participer personnellement à la cérémonie d'ouverture du Congrès, a exprimé par télégramme ses regrets et l'intérêt qu'il prenait à cette grande œuvre internationale.

On peut se faire une idée générale du but de ce Congrès d'après l'importance des questions suivantes qui seront traitées:

Le commerce extérieur en général embrassant les questions de l'établissement de l'arbitration internationale au point de vue commercial; l'uniformité désirable des droits de Douane dans tous les pays; les avantages de l'extension de facilités postales internationales; l'examen de projet d'un canal maritime et les avantages que toutes les nations tireront d'un canal à travers l'isthme; des lois internationales sur les banques et la monnaie, comprenant un système de banque internationale et ses relations avec le commerce, le besoin de lois internationales concernant les faillites, les patentes et le commerce; les avantages commerciaux d'une monnaie internationale; résultats qui pourront s'obtenir au moyen d'un service diplomatique initié aux affaires commerciales étrangères; la nécessité d'un service consulaire régulièrement établi; l'adoption universelle du système métrique; des magasins d'échantillons et leur résultat dans le commerce; des chemins de fer et leur influence dans le développement du commerce extérieur, etc.

La délégation de l'Amérique Latine étudiera l'application de la Doctrine Monroe aux Républiques Américaines; l'intérêt qu'ont l'Angleterre et les Etats-Unis à conserver l'autonomie des Républiques Américaines; le développement industriel dans l'Amérique du Sud; l'élevage du bétail et la production des graines dans les pays de la rivière de la Plata; les occasions de placer des capitaux dans les régions tropicales; la richesse des mines dans les régions Indiennes;

les effets de la fluctuation de la monnaie sur le progrès des Pays Latins de l'Amérique; le besoin d'une plus grande variété dans la production; des demandes plus variées de la part des Etats-Unis et la construction de chemins de fer dans l'Amérique du Sud.

Le langage du Congrès sera l'anglais, sans toutefois exclure aucune langue moderne. Les questions seront discutées avec une entière liberté, le Congrès étant essentiellement impartial.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis vient de faire publier, sous la forme d'un rapport No. 62, une brochure intitulée "Cultivation of Cigar-Leaf Tabacco in Florida" (Culture du tabac à cigares dans la Floride). Cet article a été rédigé avec soin par Mr. MARCUS L. FLOYD, fonctionnaire de ce Ministère qui, pendant près de douze années, s'est occupé du développement de cette industrie et est par conséquent très versé dans la matière. Dans ce rapport, Mr. MARCUS L. FLOYD décrit les méthodes employées dans la Floride pour cultiver, sécher, fermenter, classer, séparer, emballer les tabacs de Cuba et de Sumatra qui poussent dans cette presqu'île.

Le "Geographical Journal" du mois de septembre 1899 contient la première partie d'une étude très intéressante de Mr. le Dr. FRANCISCO P. MORENO ayant pour titre "Explorations in Patagonia" (Explorations en Patagonie). Cette revue périodique est publiée sous les auspices de la Société Royale de Géographie de Londres et l'article en question a été lu dans une réunion de l'assemblée, le 20 mai 1899. L'article du Dr. MORENO renferme une grande quantité d'illustrations et est d'un haut intérêt pour la géographie de l'Amérique du Sud.

Un article plein d'intérêt pour les personnes qui font des études sur la Géographie et les mœurs des peuples qui habitent l'Amérique du Sud, est celui que Mme. PENNIMAN a fait insérer dans le "Wide World Magazine" du mois de septembre et dans lequel elle décrit le voyage qu'elle a entrepris dernièrement. Mme. PENNIMAN a parcouru une distance de 100 milles, depuis le lac Titicaca jusqu'à Buenos-Ayres.

Un journal commercial intitulé "La Gaceta Mercantil" (La Gazette Commerciale) paraîtra dorénavant tous les jours, excepté le dimanche, dans la ville du Mexique. Cette feuille quotidienne est publiée sous la direction de Mr. ANTONIO P. GONZALES avec la collaboration de Mr. ANSELMO ALFARO. Les questions commerciales seront seules traitées dans cette publication.

Le premier numéro d'un journal illustré vient de paraître dans la ville du Mexique. Le titre de cette feuille est "El Alacran" et elle est publiée sous la direction de Señor ALBERTO ARONS, un écrivain Espagnol d'un grand mérite. Les illustrations sont de Señor ANGEL PONS, l'intelligent artiste et éditeur en chef du "El Correo Español."

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. NOVEMBER, 1899. No. 5.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

THE WOOL SUPPLY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Mr. HERBERT GIBSON, representing the Argentine Government at the International Commercial Congress in Philadelphia, contributed to the store of valuable information presented for the consideration of the Congress a paper on the World's Wool Parcel and Argentina's Contribution Thereto. He gave statistics to show that of the three districts where the production of wool is in excess of local requirements—Australia, South Africa, and the River Plate Republics of Argentina and Uruguay—there was an appalling decrease in the sheep stock of the two first-named regions. The Argentine Republic and Uruguay form the sole exception to this general decrease in sheep throughout the world, the present supply of the former being approximately 85,000,000 and of the latter 17,000,000, an increase for the two countries since 1890 of more than 20,000,000.

From these facts the writer deduces the consequent preeminence of the Argentine Republic as a source of supply for the woolen mills of the world and reports the total wool parcel of that country as averaging at present 200,000 tons. Of this 90 per cent goes to the French, German, and Belgian manufacturers, France taking 42 per cent of the total. The remaining 10 per cent is divided between the markets of Great Britain, the United States, and Italy. Taking both the home production and the foreign supply handled by wool manufacturers, it is demonstrated that the Argentine Republic contributed $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the trade of Great Britain, 4 per cent to the trade of the United States, and 43 per cent to the combined trade of France, Germany, and Belgium.

Mr. GIBSON deprecates the fact that Argentine wool is known chiefly in the United States through the old "Creole" breed, which at present prevails only in the upper provinces, and where it is fast disappearing before the advance of intelligent husbandry. For many years the finest pedigree sheep of the world have been bought in the Republic, and during the past five years 80 per cent of the total value of sheep exported by Great Britain have found a market there. The United States has also contributed Vermont Merinos and New Zealand has supplied Lincolns; therefore buyers may be assured of the finest qualities of wool.

For the establishment of a regular supply of Argentine raw wools for the manufacturers of the United States, the conclusion is drawn that three things are of capital importance: The presence of representatives of the manufacturers in the wool markets of Buenos Ayres, the establishment of direct steam communication between the two countries, and direct banking relations.

LACK OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR CEREALS.

According to information recently forwarded to his Government by the French Consul at Córdoba, there are at present in the railroad depots from Córdoba to Rosario 1,400,000 sacks of wheat or corn, while the other roads of the country are similarly crowded, notably: The Central Argentine, 560,000 sacks, at Buenos Ayres and at Rosario, 150,000 sacks, and in the depots of the French and Santa Fé road, 60,000 sacks, all awaiting shipment to Europe. If to this quantity is also added the 8,000 tons placed in private storehouses, and twice as much at the intermediate stations of branch roads, there will be approximately 400,000 tons of cereals, which, for lack of steam and sailing vessels available for their shipment, encumber the ports and stations of arrival, impede the operations of transport and storage, and retard the arrival of new cargoes from the interior. Business operations are thereby paralyzed, or can only be transacted under conditions disastrous to the farmers, since exporters refuse to buy the grain at current prices, fearing lest the scarcity of vessels shall continue and shall delay them indefinitely in shipping their orders.

The Consul adds that the shipowners charge at present on an average 27 shillings a ton for freight, but he fears that by the end of the maize crop the charge will be as high as 30 shillings, which is exorbitant as compared with ruling prices in other countries or with the 15-shilling freight rate prevailing last year in the Argentine Republic. It is calculated that the transport of the 400,000 tons destined for export will require about 150 vessels. Of the 100 ships arriving in the ports of Rio de la Plata during the months of August, September, and October only 60 or 70 can be loaded with grain. As a consequence, the next wheat crop will find the Argentine Republic with 200,000 tons of cereals not yet exported, which will result in maintaining the high

freight rates and in adding to the expenses of the producer, it being stated that the exporter fixes his conditions of sale in accordance with cost of transport. The scarcity of shipping facilities is, in the opinion of M. RENOZ, the effect of two causes—the decrease in importations and the high fiscal dues paid by vessels in ports of the Argentine Republic under the form of anchorage dues, berth dues, quay dues, etc.

The information given by the French Consul may be of use to United States shipowners and may point out a fruitful field for their activity, worthy of exploitation during an average crop and especially when there is an extra production of cereals.

M. RENOZ also informs his Government that a syndicate composed of 20 leading millers of the Province of Buenos Ayres has recently consolidated under the name of "The National Society of Flour Manufacturers," and that the president of the syndicate, in reply to a communication addressed to him by the Argentine Minister to Brazil in regard to the condition and future of the flour trade in his country, had recently written him as follows:

"Although, on first thought, one might fancy that, by reason of the great distance to be traversed by vessels bringing North American flours to Brazil, we should have on our side an advantage in the matter of freights, such is not the case, since our competitors often send their merchandise by sailing vessels, paying very low freight, while here (in Argentina), on account of the great abundance of export products and the scarcity of ships, we are obliged to pay excessive rates."

From this letter it would appear that United States shippers might further extend their operations on freights destined for Brazil, notably flour.

UNITED STATES MANUFACTURES IN DEMAND.

Reports from the New York market for the week ending October 28, 1899, indicate that the call for hardware from this market for the present season has been the largest in the history of the trade, the Argentine Republic being one of the principal buyers. This increased trade is attributed to the efforts made by United States firms during the past six months to take the trade away from European competitors, who were dealing largely in American products.

Upward of $13,000 worth of electrical machinery and $16,000 worth of electrical material were sent to Buenos Ayres during the time in question; and by the last two vessels leaving for Argentine ports $53,000 in manufactured iron goods were shipped. A consignment of bicycles, valued at $10,000, was also forwarded, while agricultural machinery and implements to the value of $150,000, $15,200 worth of steel wire, and $22,000 worth of boiler tubes aggregate a very substantial increase in demand. In the last-named article, the British have heretofore had the monopoly, and plated ware, typewriters, wagon material, valves, refrigerators, and paints, which have hitherto occu-

pied an insignificant place in the trade lists, have made gratifying advances. A large quantity of twine was included in the shipment of agricultural wares.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1898-99.

The report of the "Statistical Department of the Ministry of Agriculture" gives the returns from the various agricultural districts of the Republic for the harvest of 1898-99. From the provinces of Cordoba, Entre Rios, Santa Fé, and Buenos Ayres, 3,250 thrashers made reports, and in the national territories and the provinces of Tucuman, Catamarca, San Juan, Jujuy, Mendoza, Rioja, San Luis, Santiago del Estero, and Salto the aggregate wheat crop is estimated at 80,000 tons.

The following tables show the area planted and the yield of wheat and other leading products in the four principal cereal-producing provinces:

Provinces.	Farms.	Wheat.		Oats.	
		Hectares.	*Kilos.*	*Hectares.*	*Kilos.*
Santa Fé	12,483	1,126,273	868,187,668	879	799,144
Buenos Ayres	11,469	668,379	801,354,201	11,109	14,577,868
Cordoba	3,902	483,321	447,821,455	226	105,426
Entre Rios	4,682	216,555	199,443,842	249	307,333
Total	32,626	2,494,528	2,316,807,166	12,463	15,789,771

Provinces.	Barley.		Rye.		Linseed.	
	Hectares.	*Kilos.*	*Hectares.*	*Kilos.*	*Hectares.*	*Kilos.*
Santa Fe	2,531	2,133,047	95	52,387	131,344	92,482,709
Buenos Ayres	6,282	7,107,494	808	870,928	47,861	45,956,377
Cordoba	449	408,355	45	32,637	52,035	32,897,836
Entre Rios	1,072	1,377,683	140	157,125	18,828	11,739,202
Total	10,334	11,026,579	1,088	1,113,077	250,068	183,076,124

In addition, there were 3,799 hectares devoted to the cultivation of birdseed, of which 2,122 were situated in the Province of Santa Fe and 1,612 in the Province of Buenos Ayres, the total product being 2,182,092 kilos. In the Province of Buenos Ayres 4,158 hectares were planted in alfalfa, producing 590,956 kilos out of the total production (608,200 kilos) credited to the Republic.

In regard to the wool industry of the Republic, a prominent dealer of Buenos Ayres reports that high class wool has sold in some parts of the country for a greater price than at any time during the past fifteen years. Though the shipments for the past season were not so large by about 20,000 bales as in 1897-98, the bales are at least 20 per cent heavier than formerly by reason of the increased use of hydraulic presses in preparing the wool for shipment. These presses are manufactured in the United States, and though the expenses of shipment are apparently excessive, the advantages derived from their use soon make up for the outlay.

The same authority states that the difference in the value of the wool shipped this season and the consequent advantage derived by the country is something enormous, being greater by nearly $5,000,000 than the year before. The shipments to the United States have fallen off somewhat, being 4,000 bales less than last year.

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The Argentine delegates to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, Mr. COOLIDGE S. ROBERTS and Mr. JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, the latter representing the Chamber of Commerce of Buenos Ayres, devoted the time allotted them at the Pan-American session of that Congress (October 27) to a consideration of the commercial aspects of the Republic as affected by trade with the United States. To demonstrate the relative position of the United States in the commercial life of the Argentine Republic, it was stated that during the year 1898 the value of the Republic's exports to the former country was about 4½ per cent of her total exports, the other 95½ per cent being credited mostly to Europe. During the same year the value of Argentine imports from the United States were about 10½ per cent of the entire amount, which, in the opinion of the delegates, was a poor showing for both countries. Imports into the Argentine Republic must of necessity for a long time form the leading feature of her trade, as, owing to the impossibility of at present securing coal and iron in sufficient quantities, manufacturing industries can make but slow progress.

In fact, it is found, from the official reports of the United States Treasury Department, that the imports into the Argentine Republic average about $35 per capita per year, or two and one-half times as much per head as those of the United States. Such being the case, it is a matter worthy of comment that so little effort is made on the part of the United States to secure a greater share in this import trade. One reason quoted by Mr. COOLIDGE as the cause of the paucity of American imports in the River Plate countries is that the methods of introducing and advertising the goods have not always been of the best. Another reason is the lack of lines of steamships carrying the American flag into the ports of the southern Republic, it being reported that during the year 1898 not a single mercantile steamer entered or cleared from River Plate ports under the United States flag.

In the matter of exports, the Argentine Republic, as is well known, ships large quantities of hides, wool, sheepskins, goatskins, horsehair, wheat, maize, linseed, barley, oats, hay, live cattle, sheep, birdseed, etc., and added to these there has been of late an increasing business in the export of the many and excellent hard woods of the Gran Chaco, chief among which is the quebracho, used in Europe and the United States, with growing acceptance, for chemical and tanning purposes. Wheat and flour exports for the season of 1897–98 were 770,000 tons, and for 1898–99 the shipments are estimated at from 1,700,000 to

1,800,000 tons. A calculation, made on the basis of the returns for the first half year of 1899, indicates that the total trade of the Republic for the year will amount to $293,000,000, gold. Statistics for 1898 give the trade of the United States with the Argentine Republic as $17,003,300, out of a total of $241,258,358.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF FRUIT CULTURE.

The Agricultural School at Villa Urquiza, in the Province of Entre Rios, has recently received a consignment of 500 olive trees for experimental cultivation, which were imported from Spain especially for this purpose. With the idea of developing this branch of industry a bill has been introduced in the Legislature of the Province of La Rioja for the promotion of the cultivation of grapes, oranges, walnuts, and olives. It is proposed to exempt vineyards from taxation for a period of five years, orange plantations for seven years, and walnut and olive groves for eight years. A premium has also been offered for each orange and olive tree, the limit being fixed at 100 trees per hectare.

NEW MARKETS FOR SPANISH PRODUCTS.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce of Buenos Ayres, according to "Las Novedades," of New York City, is engaged in an effort to open up new markets in America for Spanish products. To this end it has addressed letters to the Spanish Chambers of Commerce and centers of production stating it to be the purpose of the board of directors of the said Chamber to hold an exposition of Spanish and Argentine products in the said Republic. "Las Novedades" claims that not only in the Argentine Republic, but also in the other South American Republics, there exists the purpose of further binding the commercial bonds with Spain by promoting the sale of Spanish articles therein; that the swiftest and surest method of opening markets to Spanish importations would be the sending of fair-sized shipments on consignment, and that the articles of easiest and surest sale are olive oil, bottled spirits, wire and wire goods, almonds, carpets, rice, refined sugar, playing cards, children's shoes, shirts, brushes, chocolate, nails of all kinds, coverlets, cummin seed, preserves, neckties, corks, curtains and transparencies, assorted glassware, hides, patent leather, drugs, articles for divine worship, corded goods, shotguns, wraps, knit goods in general, guitars, common and perfumed soap, bricks and glazed tiles, crockery and porcelain, cotton goods, shawls, bandanas, cloths and cassimeres, stationery in general, umbrellas, perfumery, pepper, pistols and revolvers, rifles and carbines, sardines, bent-wood chairs, wool and felt hats, towels, sperm and combination candles, and hunting goods.

DOMESTIC FIBERS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CORDAGE.

The Bureau of Commerce and Industries of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Argentine Republic is preparing a report upon a subject which the "Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina," of Buenos

Ayres, terms "one of undoubted national interest for the public man and producers who study the requirements of domestic consumption, the methods of efficiently aiding agriculture at a critical time, and the new outlets that may be given to domestic cultivations by improving the productive qualities of our lands."

The question relates to the application of indigenous or acclimated fibers to the manufacture of cordage, twine for binding wool and wheat and sewing sacks, as well as the making in the country of burlaps of domestic raw material for the manufacture of cheap sacks.

What has brought the subject prominently to the front is the high price of imported twine which has weighed heavily upon the agricultural interests already burdened "by the decline in the price of grain, ruinous freights, and provincial and municipal taxes, which, it seems, are bent on the ruin of the farmer, and a veritable attack on national production and prosperity."

Burlap for bagging is introduced at a low rate of duty in order to favor the bag factories of the country, which only sew them together, and raised their price, "for reasons it is unnecessary to investigate," anywhere from 30 to 40 cents. "The wheat and corn production for this year was nearly 4,000,000 tons, or 4,000,000,000 kilos. This production for domestic consumption, stock, and exportation required and requires, estimating the sack at from 75 to 80 kilos, more than 50,000,000 sacks, which at 30 cents (minimum) represents $15,000,000 national currency. Estimating the twine for binding wheat and sewing bags at $5,000,000, we have the sum of $20,000,000 which agriculture has paid and pays for bags, twine, etc., imported from abroad, and the bags only sewed in the country." These figures demonstrate the real importance of the question.

The "Boletin" asks: "Is it possible to produce these articles with domestic fibers, and with twine factories also domestic?" and answers in the affirmative, saying that new markets would be opened up for agriculture and industry through the manipulation of the textile fibers at home, and a saving of one-half in the price of bags and twine would be secured. More than $30,000,000 would be saved and remain in the country to be divided between agriculture and industry. During the five years from 1894 to 1898, inclusive, there were imported into the Republic twine, rope, and cordage, aggregating 13,678,120 kilos, or 13,600 tons—or an average of about 2,735,224 kilos per annum. During the years 1897 and 1898 there were imported into the country manufactured textile articles to the extent of upward of 40,000,000 kilos, or 40,000 tons, the custom-house valuation of which was about $8,000,000, gold; or $4,000,000 sent abroad annually, which at the average exchange of 250 equals $10,000,000 in domestic currency.

The Argentine Republic, which possesses all the climates and conditions, has many indigenous fiber plants, some in enormous quantities, which are not utilized, and it is claimed that others can be acclimated and raised in abundance. Cotton is produced in some provinces or

departments of as good a quality as the best in North America, and hemp, jute, feather grass, and other fibers develop admirably in certain portions of the Republic.

The contention of the "Boletin" is that it is unnecessary to import such large quantities of spun fibers, twine, cordage, etc., and that the decline in the price of wheat and corn should spur men having the country's interest at heart to the cultivation of many fibrous plants, to save the great amounts sent abroad for this class of raw material, and furnish domestic manufacture with the necessary elements home grown.

"Agriculture," says the "Boletin," "will derive then a double benefit: It will secure the bags, thread, and textiles it needs at a much lower price than at present, and at the same time will have new products to hand over to the domestic manufacturer."

EXPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

The "Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina," of Buenos Ayres, for August, 1899, contains an article under the above caption which is in part as follows:

"The national industry (manufacturing), which has progressed so much of late years, and whose plants and productive elements are such that they not only suffice to meet the domestic demand, but also to furnish a surplus for export, has in the South American nations valuable markets which it should conquer and govern.

"The perfected machinery possessed by the different plants permits them to produce quantity and quality, and the abundance of the domestic raw material these consume, as well as the low price of the latter, contribute to their output, enabling them to compete advantageously with similar imported articles.

"The Brazilian, Uruguayan, Paraguayan, Bolivian, and Peruvian, and even the Chilean markets may be secured through treaties and commercial conventions which, inspired in a frank and liberal South American policy, will increase the interchange of products by the establishment of reciprocal privileges.

"We have entered upon this path, and the Presidential trip has this end in view and this intent, among others equally transcendent for the Republic.

"The trade with Brazil, which in the last five years represented twenty-one millions gold in imports and forty-eight millions gold in exports, can and should continue on its ever-increasing advance.

"The products of the torrid zone, the yerba mate, coffee, tobacco, etc., should come into the Argentine market upon liberal conditions, so as to cheapen living, and our products that Brazil may need, such as wheat, corn, flour, meal, cattle on the hoof, jerked beef, forage, etc., should there find equal advantages and privileges to the evident and mutual international convenience.

"Whatever is done in this regard will be profitable to our production and our wealth.

"We only fear that the projected treaties can not be realized in all their scope and plan since the path which has been marked out has inverted the terms of the problem.

"The first step should have been the abrogation of all existing treaties, in order to be at liberty to make the new one according to the expediency and necessities of international trade.

"In this way the 'most favored nation' clause, which through want of foresight appears in all existing treaties, can be reserved exclusively for the South American nations.

"Now, if we treat with Brazil or Uruguay, we encounter the difficulty that Germany, France, England, the United States, etc., will demand privileges for their products equal to those accorded Brazil or Uruguay, because of the existence of that clause. * * *

"But, at any rate, we will have to end by doing what should have marked the commencement, and treaties or conventions with South American nations will strengthen fraternal and necessary bonds and will establish new and valuable currents of trade.

"Our shops and manufactories will have new markets, and in lieu of providing for the requirements of our small population of 5,000,000 they may become purveyors to the 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 inhabitants of the neighboring nations.

"To do this it will suffice to establish in these treaties or conventions a bounty for the products of Argentine industry—that is, that they shall pay, for example, one-half the duties that similar articles of European manufacture pay on importation.

"The Argentine national industry is the most advanced of America, just as the Republic is the greatest provider and producer of raw material for the same. It can, therefore, hold and conquer new markets and increase its production and profits."

IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The exports to the Argentine Republic from ports of the United States outside of New York during the months of August and September, 1899, as per statistics compiled at the Argentine Consulate-General at New York, were in value $300,483. The exports from New York to the Argentine Republic for the same period amounted to $4,499,319. The imports from the same country during the same months were valued at $524,561. The tonnage between the two countries named during the same period was as follows: Arrived at New York, 3 steamers, with a tonnage of 5,173 tons; at Philadelphia, 1 sailing vessel of 886 tons; at Boston, 2 sailing vessels of 1,334 tons—making a total of 6 vessels, with a tonnage of 7,393 tons. There were cleared from New York 13 steamers and 4 sailing vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 29,468 tons; from Boston, 3 sailing vessels, 2,631 tons; from

Portland, 7 sailing vessels, 6,043 tons; from Pensacola, the same number of sailing vessels, 8,867 tons; from Pascagoula, 3 sailing vessels, 2,874 tons; from Mobile, 3 sailing vessels, 2,121 tons; from Savannah, 1 sailing vessel, 680 tons; from Baltimore, 1 sailing vessel, 580 tons—giving a total of 42 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 53,264 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

On October 30 last an extraordinary general meeting of the River Plate Gas Company (Limited) was held at Winchester House, London, for the purpose of considering an *ad referendum* arrangement entered into by the directors with Señor ANTONIO SANTA MARÍA for the purchase by the company of the gas works and appurtenances in the city of Rosario. It was stated by the chairman of the meeting that the board had obtained an option, expiring on the following day, to purchase the works in question for £180,000 cash. The concession for the Rosario Gas Works is in perpetuity, and the land it occupies is freehold. The city of Rosario has a population of 90,000. On December 31 last there were 2,225 meters in use and 61,887 linear meters of mains laid. The quantity of gas produced in 1897 was 66,000,000 cubic feet, and in 1898 72,000,000 feet, while during the first four months of this year there was a further increase of 10 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. There is one electric-lighting company in Rosario, but it is said to have made but little progress. The average profits of the Rosario Gas Works for the past three years were stated to be £16,032 per annum, the profit for 1898 having been £19,964. It was agreed by the directors that if the shareholders should assent to the proposed purchase the former would raise the necessary capital by issuing at par one new ordinary share for every five shares now held by them, and that the calls on the shares would be made at long intervals.

The Chamber of Deputies at Buenos Ayres on October 29 last passed the Conversion Bill, the main object of which is to arrest the further appreciation of the currency, to sell the Transandine Railway, in the hope of receiving thereby £1,400,000, to issue £1,500,000 national *cedulas* in the London market, and lastly to negotiate over £1,000,000 of Home Debt stock of 1891. The same Chamber two days previously passed the Government Bill, fixing the conversion of paper money at the rate of 44 centavos gold per dollar, so soon as there is enough specie in hand to permit such conversion.

The statistics of the wine culture in the Province of Mendoza show that on June 30, 1899, there were devoted to vineyards 20,146 hectares, and the harvest for 1899 is estimated at 437,200 *bordalesas* (casks containing from 120 to 250 liters), of which up to July 1 there had been exported 167,033.

The press of the Republic reports the recent discovery of a rich deposit of mica in the Department of Molinos, the Government having already been applied to for permission to work the claim, which is reported to be very promising.

The firm of PEACOCK & Co. has applied to the Government of Córdoba for a concession for a narrow-gauge railroad from Juarez Celmán (Department of Marcos Juarez) through the eastern part of the province as far as Rio Seco.

During the months of June and July, 1899, there were 31 patents issued and 117 trade marks registered in the proper office in Buenos Ayres, and during the month of August 31 patents and 72 trade-marks were issued and registered.

A Chicago firm has recently supplied and installed for "La Negra" Ice Company, of Buenos Ayres, a new plant capable of turning out 100 tons daily during the next season, which will supply the city and surrounding country.

The latest statistics give the grain crop for the year as 2,400,000 tons.

BOLIVIA.

FOREST AND MINERAL WEALTH.

The rubber forests of Bolivia and the mines of the Republic, constituting the chief sources of internal prosperity, were the subjects discussed by Mr. ENRIQUE WULFF, Consul-General of Bolivia in the United States, before the International Commercial Congress, to which body he was the Bolivian representative.

Mr. WULFF spoke substantially as follows:

* * * * * * *

"The rubber forests proper cover the vast territory lying between the rivers Beni, Madre de Dios, Pivius, and Aquiri, and between the foothills of the Andes Mountains and the frontier of Brazil.

"Noted explorers agree as to the immense natural wealth this vast forest region contains, and the day has arrived when this entire region is opened up for the varied uses of mankind.

"The influx of people, who on the banks of these great rivers, are gathering the rubber in the more accessible places, has risen in the past eight years from isolated gatherers to thousands of persons now operating there, either independently or in the employ of powerful syndicates.

"All these people require everything essential for their living and their work, and the business of furnishing these supplies is one of the very profitable things men are engaged in.

"Although it is a matter of notoriety and regret that the greed of the rubber gatherer has needlessly spoiled thousands of valuable trees, there remain yet untold thousands in places remote from river banks.

"The difficulty in reaching these sources of supplies is of no mean order, and consists chiefly in making pathways in the impenetrable forests, and in pacifying many of the more hostile Indians inhabiting these regions.

"There is, however, one fact especially worthy of attention, viz, in almost all the valleys of the Andes Mountains crossing the Department of La Paz and at the head waters of the rivers is found what is known under the name of '*Castilloa elastica*,' or Peruvian rubber.

"With careful management in gathering the last-named rubber a higher price can be obtained for the same than at present.

"It seems to me that, as the rubber lands are so susceptible of rapid vegetation by reason of the climatic condition and the composition of the soil, 'rubber plantations' ought to be started, where a rational cultivation of rubber trees could just as well be maintained, as has been the case for many years in planting and cultivating the cinchona or 'cascarilla' tree.

"No surer and more permanent investment can be made than in a rubber plantation. There are also other highly desirable products, such as the vegetables, silk, the yellow cotton, the coco brush, etc., which are known to be of the easiest culture, and guarantee permanent and satisfactory results.

"The dye, drug, and cabinet-wood trees of this region are highly prized and very much sought after.

"Shortly after Dr. EDWIN K. HEALTH, now Consul of Bolivia in Kansas City, had completed his explorations of the Beni River, the Government set about to disseminate the news of his valuable work and discoveries, particularly in regard to the great wealth of the rubber trees known under the name of '*Hevea brasiliensis*' or '*Hevea syphonia*.'

"Since then liberal laws have been enacted for the acquisition of rubber and other forest lands for the purpose of stimulating the cultivation of the rubber tree and other valuable products of this immense forest region.

"The law,* as it now stands, permits anyone to explore these forests for wild-growing rubber, medicinal, or dye wood trees, and grants to every applicant after discovery of from 1 to 500 *estradas* for a trifling annual payment for fifteen consecutive years, when the Government issues a patent for the land in perpetuity, according to the law promulgated in 1896; or the applicant may pay in advance the fifteen yearly payments, amounting to 15 *bolivianos* for each *estrada* of 150 trees, and the patent will be issued at once."

* The law regulating concessions and ownership of rubber-tree lands in Bolivia was published in the Monthly Bulletin of the Bureau of the American Republics for July, 1897, pp. 24-28.

Speaking of the mineral wealth of the country, Mr. WULFF stated that—

"Conservative estimates corroborate the belief that in the Department of Oruro alone are enough visible copper deposits to parallel the silver deposits of the Department of Potosí, from which, as it is generally known, Bolivia has become, with very limited exploitation, the third silver-producing country of the world. No less that 3,000 millions pounds sterling of silver have been extracted from these mines since the Spanish conquest of the Inca nation.

"The great tin-ore deposits—vein and stream tin—in the Departments of Oruro, Potosí, and La Paz have assumed in the past eight years a commanding position in the tin-supply sources of the world. The richness and purity of Bolivian tin ores have won serious attention from the commercial nations of Europe, so much so that smelting works have been erected in Todstedt, near Hamburg, Germany, which mostly import Bolivian tin ores; also in Schlagenwald, Bohemia; in Freiberg, Saxony; in France, and in St. Helens, England, where the bulk of the Bolivian tin ores are handled.

"Bismuth and antimony ores are likewise largely exported to Germany and France, and one firm in London, England, is known to be the largest and most successful smelters of Bolivian bismuth ores.

"The large copper vein deposits of manganese and hematite iron in the Department of Tarija have not failed to attract the attention of the mining expert.

"The gold veins and placer deposits are assuming the front rank of activity in Bolivia at present. It is not assuming too much to say that nearly all the river beds of Bolivia contain placer gold. The extent of these placers is simply marvelous; their richness per cubic yard compares decidedly in their favor with any of the more recent finds in the Klondike.

"The condition for working these placers is far superior to any of the best situated placer claims in the aforesaid regions.

"Water and fuel are in abundance, and the living supplies and sanitary conditions are, in most cases, superb. You may very naturally ask why is it, when there are such rich placer deposits and inviting conditions to work these deposits, that they are not being worked.

"Lack of roads prevents the transportation of any kind of modern machinery or contrivance to these places, and is the main drawback for the mines not having been worked at all, except during the time of the Incas and under the Spanish conquest.

"Only in the early part of 1898 the first mining machinery went in from the United States, and since then three companies are working there with great success. Several Belgium, English, and German companies are exploiting the placers with equal successful returns, and but lately a powerful United States smelting concern has taken hold to exploit the copper resources of Bolivia.

"Gold-quartz veins are encountered in all parts of the Andes crossing Bolivia, and as far south as the frontier, where very rich quartz veins and placer fields are known to exist, but have not been worked because of the impossibility of bringing in machinery,

"The industrial condition of Bolivia invites the most careful attention of every thoughtful man, for, with the awakening of the mining industry in its manifold ramifications, changes occur from day to day which demand the introduction of every article prerequisite for the successful exploitation of the mineral deposits. It may even compel the establishment of industries in Bolivia in the near future essential for the permanent progress and maintenance of this all-important subject.

"Immigrants in Bolivia are not considered, as in many other countries, unwelcome guests. Bolivians are very hospitable, and a foreigner is, for the lower classes, an object of curiosity, but his friendship and relationship is highly desired by all classes. He is a very desirable guest, for he does not come to become a rival, but comes to establish industries unknown to the native and which will be of benefit to the country and its inhabitants. No matter how uninstructed, he always will be able to teach something, even if in his own language, and those people far away from the center of the world welcome him, seat him at their table, and are highly honored with his friendship.

"The proof of this is that there is not a foreigner in Bolivia whom you could call pauper. In Bolivia the foreigner who desires to work can do so; the Government, as I have said, gives him the land and the people their friendship.

"The money standard of Bolivia is the boliviano, which weighs 25 grams, 0.900 fine, equivalent to about 41 cents, United States money. Subject as this money is to the continuous fluctuations to which it is exposed by exchange, owing to the rise and fall of silver, the country is completely without a basis on which to rely for foreign trade. This has been a cause of depression to commerce, and, to a certain extent, causes importations to decline, which, of course, is to the disadvantage of the manufacturing countries who persist in maintaining the gold standard."

GEN. DON JOSÉ MANUEL PANDO, PRESIDENT—NEW CABINET.

Gen. Don José Manuel Pando was, on Thursday, October 26, 1899, inaugurated as Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia, amid the enthusiastic acclamations of Congress and the people. The President's first Cabinet has been constituted as follows:

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Señor Fernando Guadialla.
Minister of the Interior, Señor Carlos Romero.
Minister of Finance, Señor Demetrio Calbimonte.
Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Señor Samuel Oropeza.
Minister of War, Col. Ismael Montes.

BRAZIL.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, United States Minister to Brazil, was one of the speakers at the eleventh day's session of the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, and in the course of his remarks supplied valuable information to merchants in the United States seeking a market in the Brazilian Republic He urged the representation of United States products by United States citizens, saying that—

"A European branch house may, for instance, take the agency of American coal, which, however, he will offer only when he has exhausted every effort to dispose of the Welsh supply, always plentiful. So a Belgian will sell United States steel rails only when no purchaser of those of his country can be found. * * * Competition with Europeans is keen. In commercial alliance they stand united against all newcomers. * * * Once introduced, no matter by what producer, American coal, for instance, would soon find favor and be known as the best, as has been the case with our flour, the supremacy of which we are striving to maintain. * * *

"No effort should be spared to establish American banks and steamship lines. They would pay handsomely, and the return to our commerce would be incalculable. Several of the State Legislatures are voting subsidies, and the Federal Congress is contemplating like action for a line of steamers to New York. Such an enterprise and a great railroad promise magnificent opportunities for large American investors."

BOUNDARY LINE WITH BOLIVIA.

It is reported from Rio Janeiro that the Brazilian Foreign Minister, Gen. DE CASTRO CERQUEIRA, and the Bolivian Minister at Rio, Señor PARAVICINI, have signed a protocol settling the boundary question between their respective countries. A joint commission will rectify the frontier according to the treaty of 1867, setting aside the protocol of 1805. The Bolivian custom-house at Puerto Alonso will continue until the final settlement.

NEW TARIFF RATES.

The rates of the new Brazilian tariff law are influenced in a great degree by the reciprocal duties of other countries, the minimum rate being for those admitting the products of Brazil at low duties, or free, and the maximum for countries which impose high duties. France, Italy, and Russia are especially affected by the maximum rates, while the United States, which imposes no duty on the two leading exports of Brazil—coffee and rubber—receives the benefit of the minimum rate. Imports of wheat are dutiable, but this is not adverse to the interests

of the United States, as flour constitutes the chief cereal product imported from this source. While this may interfere somewhat with the prosperity of the Brazilian milling interests, it does not imply an advantage over the Argentine Republic, as the latter country can also become a beneficiary of the minimum tariff.

Coal remains on the free list, and steel rails are taxed from $7.50 to $10.50 on light sections, and from $2.25 to $3 on heavy sections. The duties on textiles are very high, cotton cloths being divided into general classes as unbleached, bleached, colored, and printed, and then graded into several grades in each class. The highest rates on each class are as follows: On unbleached, per kilo of 2.204 pounds, the minimum tariff is $2.10 and the general tariff $2.85; on bleached, minimum, $3, and general, $4.20; on colored or printed, minimum, $2.25, general, $3.15. The duties on lumber will be assessed per cubic meter, approximately 35½ cubic feet. On oak, the minimum and general duties will be, respectively, $8.25 and $11.55, and on pine, $2.32 and $3.37.

The following table gives the duties on the most important imports from United States sources, the estimated value of the milreis being taken as 15 cents, which, while it does not correspond exactly with the Rio rates of exchange, is approximately correct.

[Per metric ton, 2,204 pounds.]

Article.	Minimum.	General.
Wheat flour	$5.25	$7.50
Wheat	1.50	2.25
Corn	4.50	4.50
Lard	45.00	45.00
Salt pork	30.00	30.00
Kerosene	10.50	15.00
Lubricating oil	6.00	9.00
Turpentine:		
Pure	30.00	42.00
Crude	15.00	21.00

IMMENSE RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLIC.

The interests of the vast Republic of Brazil were represented at the Pan-American sessions of the International Commercial Congress sitting at Philadelphia from October 14 to October 31, by Captain CORDEIRO DE GRAÇA, delegate from Brazil, and Mr. ALFONSO RATIS, delegate from the State of São Paulo, Brazil. The former gave a graphic description of the immensity of the internal resources of the country, and the latter considered it from a commercial standpoint and its influence on the coffee trade.

Captain CORDEIRO'S paper was, in part, as follows:

* * * * * * *

"In order to give an idea of the natural wealth which this country offers to the activity of its residents it is sufficient to mention the principal products that can be exported without necessitating first a tedious and long cultivation of the soil. The Republic of Guatemala has a population of 1,323,000; the State of Pará has only 700,000. Never-

theless, in 1885 Guatemala exported ten millions less, or half of the exports of Pará. The same year the Republic of Bolivia, with 2,300,000 inhabitants, exported $12,000,000 less than Pará, and Colombia, with a population of 3,000,000, did not export any more than Pará, viz, $17,000,000 worth. The exports of Ecuador are only half; those of Peru (with its 3,000,000 population), only two-thirds of those of Pará. Mexico, the great and powerful Mexico, with a population of between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000, has exported $2,000,000 worth less than Pará alone. Including the exports of last December the total of this State will reach $20,000,000. The principal products are rubber, cocoa, nuts, hides of different kinds, sarsaparilla, oil of copaiba, *guarana*, *neuhula*, *kumaru;* then vanilla, vegetable ivory, precious woods, essences, raisins and fruits. The gold yield in the northern part of the country is very great. In this brief description it is impossible for me give a full account of the rubber industry; suffice it to say that in 1897 the production of Pará alone, not including the Amazon district, amounted to 9,000 tons. The cocoa crop amounted to from 3,000 to 5,000 tons; the export of tobacco was over 750 tons. The vanilla of Pará is known in France under the name of 'vanillin,' and brings from $2 to $4 per kilo. The tonka beans are exported in large quantities to this country and to Europe. If I should wish to speak at length of the wood, I should have to quote some five hundred varieties.

"The public instruction is divided into primary, secondary, and technical education. There are 49 primary schools in the capital and 585 in the interior. Besides, there are training schools, and the 'Lyceum' (high school), which prepares the students for the university. I must also mention the Academy of Music, the Society for the Advancement of Fine Arts, the Lyceum of Art and Industry, and the Normal School.

"The Government of the State is modeled after your State governments. I must mention here that some of the States—Pará, for instance—have two houses, corresponding to your Senate and House of Representatives, while other States of our Union have only one house. The municipal government is independent of the State government and is administered as in the most advanced countries.

"The budget for the year 1898–99 amounted to about $10,000,000. The receipts of the Federal customs were $11,000,000.

"The highest temperature in December was 32.2° C. in the sun, corresponding to about 90° F.

"*Commerce and navigation.*—The export trade of Pará is well developed and is in constant touch with the United States by means of two lines of steamers—the Red Cross and the Booth lines. It is connected with Europe—that is to say, with Liverpool, Antwerp, Hamburg, Havre, Lisbon, and Genoa—by means of French, English, Italian, Portuguese, and German steamers. There is not one American boat engaged in this traffic, though there were others some time ago.

"*Banks.*—Pará has three English banks, the British, the London, and the River Plate, and the London and Brazilian Bank. It has also five Brazilian banks, the Bank of Pará, the Commercial Bank of Pará, and Bank of Northern Brazil. I have only spoken a few words about this single State of Brazil. A full description of this State alone would take up a whole volume.

"*The State of Amazonas.*—This State is the largest in the Union. It has not as yet been cultivated to any extent, but its natural wealth is so great that in five years its capital, Manãos, has been transformed rom a small village into one of the most comfortable and beautiful cities of America, its development having been largely furthered by the patriotic spirit of the Governors of the State. It has fine avenues and streets, all lighted by electricity; trolley cars, fine buildings, fine schools, and in spite of the large expenditures the treasury has always about $3,000,000 on hand. The budget for this year has been estimated at $7,500,000, which amount has been reached by the receipts during the first four months.

"This is the true Eldorado of the world. The population of this State, which is in a period of formation, is only 200,000. The State of Amazonas, under the government of Colonel RAMALHO, in conjunction with the Chamber of Deputies presided over by the former Governor, RITEIRO, has made enormous strides forward. In order to give you an idea of the vastness of this State, I might say that in order to go from Manãos to Venezuela, on the Rio Negro, in a steamer or sailboat it takes from twenty to thirty days. It takes the same time for a trip to Iquitos, in Peru, going up the river Solimois.

"*Maranhão.*—This is a very rich State and as yet undeveloped. It produces a large amount of cereals, exports natural products in considerable quantity to Europe, and has an extensive trade with Pará and the Amazons. This State could furnish rubber in abundance, but the industry has not yet been developed. Always in a peaceful state and undisturbed by political agitations, the State has brought its educational system to a very high standing. Arts and sciences are more developed here than in any other State of Brazil. This State has neither interior nor foreign debts.

"La Parahyba do Norte and Rio Grande do Norte produce large quantities of sugar, cotton, and hides.

"La Ceará is one of the richest States, although the terrible droughts make agriculture difficult. It exports hides and natural products in large quantities.

"*Pernambuco.*—This is one of the largest producers of raisins, sugar, cotton, and hides. It has a splendid net of railways extending a way into the interior and penetrating the primeval forests, where the climate is superb. Business is quite active in this State.

"Mageos produces the same articles as Pernambuco.

"*Bahia.*—This is one of the finest States of the Union. It possesses

rich gold mines. Other products are sugar cane, coffee, precious woods, cotton, and, above all, tobacco, which in quality stands second only to that of Havana and finds a considerable outlet in Europe—Belgium, France, Italy, Holland, and Germany.

"L'Espirito Santo and Rio de Janeiro are the largest producers of coffee and other natural products. Espirito Santo is not yet developed and everything has still to be created; Rio de Janeiro, however, is already traversed by a good network of railroads. The capital of the Union, Rio de Janeiro, is situated in one of the most beautiful bays of the world. Its commerce is enormous and the largest in all South America. It is provisionally the capital of the federation of Brazil.

"Although yellow fever exists there during the four hottest months, the mortality, compared with that of the healthiest cities of the world, is very small. With a population of 700,000 or 800,000, the daily death rate during the winter months—or spring, I should rather say, for there is no winter in that climate in the northern sense—is from 25 to 35 a day. The United States Consul-General can corroborate my statement. The suburbs of Rio are superb and counted among the finest of the globe. Tijuca and Corcovado, both of which are reached by railroad, have a height of 700 meters and 2,200 feet, respectively. There is an electric road 500 meters long on Tijuca, penetrating into the primeval forest.

"Petropolis, one and three quarter hours' ride from the capital, is 3,000 feet above sea-level. There is no fever in these regions, where the foreigners have their residences. If I wished to speak of Rio alone, with its university, its schools, its commercial interests, and its traffic, I should have more to say than time permits at present.

"I must also mention a master work of engineering, the Central Railroad of Brazil, which was constructed under the direction of a Brazilian, with the assistance of several American engineers brought to our country by your lamented engineer, Mr. MORSING, who served his apprenticeship at the time when the Cincinnati (Ohio) Railroad was built. These were the good old times when the United States still sent her girders, iron beams, bridge material, etc., to Brazil. This trade, however, has succumbed to the competition of CREUSOT (France), FIVES LILLE (Belgium), and KRUPP (Germany).

"When the sanitary works of Rio de Janeiro shall have been completed, for which purpose the municipality will be authorized to spend as much as $30,000,000, it will certainly, owing to its geographical position, be the metropolis of South America.

"*Minas Geraes.*—If I have spoken so enthusiastically about Pará, what shall I say of Minas? A superb climate produces, besides coffee, bananas, and oranges, all the fruits of Europe. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that Minas is the California of Brazil. The soil is fertile, and beneath it are hidden incalculable treasures of gold, diamonds, and large quantities of other minerals. Iron and manganese

are found in very pure condition and exported in large quantities to England, France, Belgium, and the United States. Railroads and navigable rivers will soon facilitate the development of this great State.

"São Paulo, with its enormous network of railways, produces almost as much coffee as all the other States together. Unfortunately, it has developed its coffee industry too much, to the detriment of other branches of agriculture. The residents as a rule send their children to the United States to be educated, so that the English language is not a foreign one in that State. About this part of Brazil you can get better information than I am able to give you from Mr. RUTIS, the delegate of São Paulo to this congress, and Rev. G. W. CHAMBERLAIN, an American missionary in Brazil, both of whom are very popular in Brazil. The great outlet of this State is the port of Santos. It has been much improved lately by splendid wharves, which can be approached directly by the great trans-Atlantic steamers.

"Paraná is the State reserved for pasturage. The climate is very mild, the country being situated in the temperate zone. Here grain, as well as coffee, can be raised; pines grow in large numbers in this State, as well as in the States of Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul. Other kinds of wood also grow in abundance.

"The principal product of Paraná is mate tea—a beverage with all the good qualities of coffee and tea without having any of their defects. This article is exported in large quantities to Chile and the River Plate Republics. It is a very strong aid to digestion and has no bad effect upon the nervous system, upon which it acts very soothingly. Mate alone will tend to lengthen the life of all those who use it. I recommend this good article to Americans and especially to those who wish to have a cheap and wholesome beverage especially adapted for children and wet nurses.

"Santa Catharina is in about the same condition as the State of Paraná, but with the advantages derived from German colonization, which has brought great prosperity to this State.

"*Rio Grande do Sul.*—Let us now pass to this important cattle State, with its immense pasturage, traversed by large navigable rivers, where the wealth of the soil and the subsoil is enormous. The German and Italian colonies praise it more justly than I, for they are happy there. Our friend, Mr. SEEGER, the United States Consul to Brazil, can also speak of this.

"*Matto Grosso.*—In this State, with its great future, hardly anything has been developed yet. Gold, diamonds, fibers, ipecaca, and, above all, rubber similar to that of the Amazonas are found here in great quantity. Large herds of cattle run wild. Here a strong and healthy man can get rich, without having any money to start on, in about five years. The ipecaca, which sells at 18 shillings per pound in England, which has just made its appearance in American markets, and the rubber of this State, have attracted the attention of the whole world.

"There still remain the States of Sergipe, Piauhy, and Goyaz. These States are as yet entirely undeveloped; their immense natural wealth has never been touched.

"*Intellectual education.*—Not only the Union but all of the States appropriate good sums for this purpose.

"*Exports.*—Brazil exports principally coffee. Some one has said that our coffee shipped to the United States consists half of coffee and half of stone with which streets have been paved. Permit me to state that this is not true. The coffee shipped here is bought by American firms, among which may be mentioned ARBUCKLE BROS., HARD, RAND & CO., etc. The agents who buy it send the samples in accordance with the various qualities required. Thus they sell Mocha, Java, Liberia, and other brands which are known here as Brazilian coffee under other denominations. I do not doubt that one could sell the refuse; that is, the coffee which falls to the ground from the tree, and of this not everything is refuse. I call upon the representatives of the New York firms to testify on this point; and as a representative of a country which receives them in the most cordial manner I will ask that they only loyally speak the truth, and I also hope that the press of this country will do us justice in this respect.

"*Rubber.*—The following figures will show you the size of the product: 1897, 25,500,000 pounds; 1898, 22,600,000 pounds; 1899, until September 30, 18,500,000 pounds.

"No other country in the world can offer the United States of North America such a good outlet for her manufactured products, railroad, navigation, and banking enterprises as can the sister nation of Brazil. In order to give a slight idea of its commerce I might state that Brazil ranks fourth amongst the nations which export to this country, being outranked only by Great Britain, Germany and France.

"Exports from Brazil to the United States for about ten years showed the following increase: From $45,000,000 it increased in 1892 (during BLAINE'S reciprocity treaty) to $118,500,000. After the abrogation of this treaty and in consequence of the low price for coffee our exports to this country decreased to $70,000,000, at which figure they retain fourth place, as stated above. If the coffee price had remained the same in 1892 to 1893, the exports, considerably increased in quantity, would have reached the enormous amount of $200,000,000. It is worthy of note that our exports of coffee amounted in 1897 to 569,626,828 pounds, or almost 300,000 tons, and in 1898 to 604,629,040 pounds, more than 300,000 tons; that our exports of rubber in 1897 amounted to 25,036,628 pounds; in 1898, 22,200,332 pounds, and have reached up to September, 1899, the total of 18,227,500 pounds. To all this must be added hides, fur skins, sugar, wood, manganese, cocoa, crude leaves, shells, raisins, oils, and other articles. If we consider that these hundreds of thousands of tons or millions of pounds are shipped in vessels not one of which hoists the glorious 'star-spangled banner'; if we

consider that these enormous transactions are settled in London, where the people of the United States must pay heavy commissions in addition to the large amounts paid for freight, insurance, etc., to foreign shipping companies, it is evident that there is a vast opportunity for American enterprise, and that American ships, either sailboats or steamers, bringing goods to Brazil are certain to find cargoes for the return trips to the United States. How long, my friends, will you be blind to these facts? Is it possible to compete with European nations in the Brazilian trade if you have no transportation facilities? No; you can never do it. We offer you all the advantages, subsidies on the part of our Governments, and easy acquisition of lines already in operation. Can you ask more? All you need is the earnest will, for you neither lack the money nor the energy. Very well, then, go ahead. Full steam ahead!

"*Importation from the United States.*—Let us now glance for a moment at your exports into our country. In ten years they increased from $6,500,000 to $13,000,000. The principal articles are wheat, wheat flour, other breadstuffs, mineral oils, and, to a smaller extent, iron and steel, wool and cotton cloths. As to dry goods, you will have to fight the formidable competition of Manchester. Make the necessary preparations and the territory will soon be yours. Owing to lack of time, I will not quote any statistics of our exports to France, England, and Germany; the total, including the shipments to all these countries, reaching the sum of $60,000,000, so you can see that ours is a country which does not deserve to be neglected in your trade. To further illustrate this point, I might state that in 1893 we imported from England alone cotton goods to the amount of $17,000,000, and that the smallest amount we ever imported (1895) was $10,000,000, being about as much as the total we import from the United States."

Speaking of Brazilian coffee interests, Mr. RATIS said:

* * * * * * *

"São Paulo has in Santos the largest coffee shipping port in the world. With an area of 106,939 square miles, and a population of 2,500,000, it may be considered the model agricultural State of Brazil, especially as no other State has offered such inducements to immigrants or has made such sacrifices for the development of agriculture. Of the 14,700,000 sacks of coffee which represent the estimated crops of the world for 1897–98, Brazil produced about 11,000,000, of which four-fifths came from the State of São Paulo.

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"The practical revenue is derived from the export duty on coffee, which is payable when the coffee is loaded into ships for transoceanic points of destination.

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"The United States, the largest buyer of coffee, admits it free of duty, considering it to be a national beverage and a necessary alimentary article for the working classes.

"But even in the United States the prices quoted are greatly in favor of the dealer, for the name of Brazil coffee is used seldom or never, Mocha and names of other countries being substituted in its place.

"The United States import from Brazil coffee, rubber, and other products to the value of $54,000,000 annually, while it exports to that country each year about $14,000,000 only.

"But two things are absolutely necessary to a successful establishment of trade relations between Brazil and the United States—a regular steamship connection, representing only American interests, and the establishment in Brazil of an American bank, through which all your business would naturally be transacted.

"There never has been a more opportune moment for hoisting the American flag on a line of steamers.

"Another article of which Brazil, and especially the State of São Paulo, could consume enormous quantities is coal, which is found, especially in the State of Pennsylvania, in almost inexhaustible beds. Cardiff has so far had entire control of the sale of this article to our consumers, while, according to analyses, the Pennsylvania product is in every way equal to the British one, and besides cheaper in price.

"This beautiful and rich field for American export trade is therefore open to enterprise, and every vessel could easily take in as return freight rich manganese ore and other minerals to be found in Brazil, which would be sure to make any steamship line a profitable one. * * *

"São Paulo has a very important industry in cotton products, the cultivation of cotton being carried throughout the State with great facility, and it can easily compete in the so-called 'resgados' with either England or Germany, having made itself entirely independent.

"The manufacture of felt hats has also assumed very large proportions and not only covers the home consumption, but also that of the other States. A jute-spinning mill furnishes the material for the sacks in which coffee is exported.

"Immense waterfalls, with a horsepower of several thousands, lie still in unharnessed condition, and from them could be easily utilized motive power for many industrial establishments. This should especially appeal to the enterprising American as a first-class opportunity for a profitable investment.

"São Paulo, possessing breweries which represent a capital of millions of dollars, is also entirely independent of imported beer. Not far from the capital is situated the largest and only factory of Portland cement existing in South America, which produces cement of a quality that is equal to the best foreign brands." Mr. RATIS stated that this establishment will soon pass into American hands, and this will stop entirely the importation of European cement, for the establishment, after having been properly enlarged, will not only produce enough to cover the home consumption, but will also be in a position to supply a number of other places in Brazil.

COFFEE SHIPMENTS TO HAMBURG.

Hamburg, Germany, has become the greatest coffee market in Europe, having taken precedence over Havre, France, for a number of years. In 1898 this market received from Brazil 1,565,000 bags of coffee, while the shipments from Guatemala, Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Java, the East Indies, and Africa made up a grand aggregate of 2,000,000 bags. As a consequence, the coffee merchants and brokers form a very important part of the commercial community of the city. The brokers have their special exchange on the Santhorquai, and also meet on the general exchange. An appreciable percentage of the coffee received at Hamburg is reshipped to the United States, of which not a small proportion is American grown. The roasting of coffee is also an important occupation in Hamburg, but the machinery in the several establishments is of rather antiquated style. The consumption of coffee in Germany was estimated, in 1898, at 78 ounces per annum for each individual. Its use, however, is rapidly increasing, and Hamburg is consequently destined to become a still more important coffee market.

Señor VELEZ, Mexican Consul in Hamburg, reports a rapidly increasing importation of Mexican coffees at that port, the quantities for 1896, 1897, and 1898, being, respectively, 828,000 kilos, 1,199,560 kilos, and 2,814,500 kilos. For the first eight months of 1899, however, there was a falling off in the receipts, the quantity being 702,950 kilos. The Consul says further that Mexican coffee is not known as such to the German consumer, as it is classed with the Brazilian product.

MONAZITE DEPOSITS.

Very rich deposits of monazite have lately been discovered in the State of Bahia on the property of Mr. PASSOS, jr., Deputy of the State. It is believed that this find is richer than the famous sands of Prado, in the same State. Several analyses of samples have been made, with the following result: One kilo of the mineral contains 140 grams of oxalate of cerium, 305 grams of sulphate of thorium, 120 grams of oxalate of zinc, 95 grams of carbonate of cerium, 20 grams of orin, and 420 grams of mica, lime, and clay.

IMPORTS OF VEGETABLES.

The Belgian Legation in Brazil has reported to the home Government that the appearance of the plague at Oporto has stopped the Brazilian importation of potatoes, onions, fruits, alimentary conserves, etc., which Portugal formerly supplied on a large scale. As the price of potatoes in Rio de Janeiro has recently advanced 50 per cent (15 milreis instead of 10), it appears a favorable moment for United States exporters of this article to seek a market in Brazil. Belgian shipments of potatoes in 1898 amounted to 156,823,404 kilos, of which 345,650 kilos were sent to Brazil. From a French consular report from

Bahia it appears that the same situation exists in that city, and the prospects are that it will continue indefinitely.

A list of the principal houses in Bahia importing potatoes, garlic, onions, fruits, alimentary conserves, oils, and wines is appended for the benefit of intending exporters: CONDE, FILHO & Co., BERNARDO LOPES & Co., MOTTA SILVA & Co., SILVA & Co., FORTUNATO PINHO AVELAR & Co., CASTILLO BRANCO FERREIRA, MATHENS DOS SANTOS & Co.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

Steamship service between the United States and Brazilian ports is, according to a communication from Consul KENNEDAY, at Pará, to be greatly augmented, as both the Booth Steamship Company, Limited, and the Red Cross Line of steamers have decided to establish a ten-days' service between Manãos and New York, which will be run in addition to their present schedule between Pará and New York. The dates of the latter sailings have been changed to the 6th, 16th, and 26th of each month. The same companies also commenced on November 1 a ten-days' service between Pará and Galveston, Tex., and the Spanish Steamship Company, at present operating between Havana, Cuba, and Europe, is completing arrangements for the extension of said line to Pará on the return voyage to Europe.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The custom-house in Porto Alegre is to be reopened.

The establishment of the Belgium Bank in Rio de Janeiro is now a settled fact. It will have a capital of 25,000,000 francs.

It is stated that the São Paulo Sorocabano Railway is to be sold to an English syndicate for two and a half million pounds sterling.

During the past six months the exports of rubber from Pará to the United States amounted to 6,338,536 kilos, to Europe, 3,108,452; a total of 9,441,988 kilos.

During the period between July 1, 1897, and July 1, 1898, the gold mines of Passagem in Minas Geraes, in the possession of English capitalists, produced gold to the value of $2,384,759. The expenses amounted to $2,306,573, of which sum 1,490 contos was paid for Brazilian labor.

At the General Division of Works and means of communications of the Department of Industry at Rio de Janeiro, bids will be received on the 6th of December, 1899, for the works of improvements of the port of Manãos (State of Amazonas), embracing the following works: First, improvement of the bed and shores of the river, building of approaches, piers, docks, and all that is required for the service of docking, loading,

and unloading of vessels and storage; second, work of dredging. The provisional bond is 10 contos de reis.

The budget for 1900 estimates the total receipts at $310,199,677, of which $28,347,667 is in gold and the balance in paper. The bill to be presented calls for the following: (1) In the next year an issue of 25,000 contos in Government notes, to be redeemed within the year. This is a yearly provision of the budget. (2) The undertaking of such credit operations excepting the issue of some paper money, as may appear to be necessary. (3) The selling or leasing of the railway. (4) The establishment of differential duties upon one or more articles of foreign origin, if a reciprocal advantage is obtained for Brazilian products.

CHILE.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT.

At the session of the International Commercial Congress, held on the 28th ultimo, Señor DON ELIODORO INFANTE, chargé d'affaires of Chile in the United States and delegate of his country to that body, delivered the following address:

"It would have been my desire to give to the International Commercial Congress a clear idea of the importance of the long and narrow strip of territory which extends between the range of the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, and the part it plays in the commerce of nations. The inclusion of my name among the speakers was so surprising to me that, I am sorry to say, it will be possible for me only to give you an approximate idea of our present situation and of the prospect Chile offers for trade.

"Chile, narrow and small as it appears in the geographical charts, has an area of 750,000 square kilometers, or an extension much larger than any of the European countries, with the exception of Russia. The length of this territory, which can be considered a disadvantage from a strategic point of view, is by all means an advantage which nature bestowed upon Chile, not only because the extent of its coast imposes the development of its mercantile marine and its foreign commerce, but also because such long extension from north to south endows the country with distinct regions gifted with a great diversity of natural riches. The country comprises four zones.

"First, the mineral zone, which extends from the extreme north as far as the twenty-seventh parallel. There vegetation is either lacking or extremely poor, running waters are scarce, and rain still more so. It contains, however, rich mines of silver, gold, and copper, etc., and, most important of all, nitrate of soda, which alone constitutes a great source of wealth.

"Second, the mineral and agricultural zone, which reaches as far as the southern boundary of the province of Aconcagua, so called because it embodies both agricultural and mineral conditions. It has sufficient water and valleys suitable for cultivation, and the whole region is full of mines of copper, silver, iron, manganese, lead, etc.

"Third, the agricultural zone, which extends as far as the forty-third parallel, where the island of Chiloe is situated. This region contains a great central valley with a well-irrigated soil and benign climate, receiving more rainfall the more it advances southward; a rich and productive soil, abundant forests, and luxurious vegetation. Abundant and excellent cereals are produced there, also leguminous plants, vegetables, fruits, and first-quality wines, which offer a wide field for foreign trade. There are also found large deposits of mineral coal.

"Fourth, the lumber and fisheries belt. The central valley disappears and the mountain chain of the coast transforms itself in an archipelago, beginning with the island of Chiloe and ending in the Tierra del Fuego. In this region valleys are found adaptable to cultivation and cattle raising; rain is frequent; the sylvan vegetation is exuberant; fish, shellfish, seal, etc., are abundant.

"The climate of the whole territory of the Republic is exceedingly benign and healthy; there is no excess of heat nor of cold, nor malignant endemic diseases, with the exception of smallpox, which is rapidly disappearing through the use of vaccine.

"The bulk of the population is of Spanish descent. The African race is not known in Chile and the Asiatic is only very faintly represented. The number of foreign residents in Chile does not reach 100,000, of which only about 1,000 belong to this great Republic of the North, to whose hospitality and initiative we owe the happy gathering of this Congress.

"The political organization of the country is based on the constitution adopted in 1833. We owe that stability of our institutions which has given us strength for progress and the energy for the development of our elements of moral and material vitality to its maintenance and to the holy respect which it inspires in every Chilean citizen.

"Within the pale of this fundamental chart the administration has developed and maintained itself in perfect order; the political and social institutions have gone through their progressive evolutions in conditions of complete tranquillity and with the aid of all; the education of the people and instruction in general have reached a degree of progress which is a high honor for us; public sanitary conditions, which were neglected at the beginning, now make rapid progress.

"In short, all and every one of the political, social, administrative or material elements whose systematic concourse is indispensable for the development of nations have worked, and will in the future work, with perfect regularity on the solid foundation erected by the fathers of our

country when they gave us independence and guided the first steps of our life as a nation.

"I should have liked to give to this assembly some data on the organization of public instruction, on hygiene, on public charity, and on each and all of our departments, but regret that I do not have them at hand. I can only say regarding public instruction that it is within the reach of all, that it is based on the most modern and scientific systems, and that numerous foreign students attend our universities, our pedagogic institutions, and our naval and military schools.

"Gentlemen, the riches of the soil do not alone constitute the only foundation for the prosperity of nations. The solidity and stability of institutions and internal and external peace are also needed. Without solid institutions, all problems which might affect the interests of the country can find no effective solutions. Without peace, all is destroyed and annihilated.

"Without the solidity of its institutions, Chile could never have resolved the grave economic and financial problem which threatened the nation, occasioned by the circulation of the fiduciary money. The public powers, supported by the entire country, undertook the metallic conversion, an operation which, although it carried with it the perturbations which are natural to occur when such transcendental measures are taken, brought back to us the metallic régime, made the crisis disappear, and gave us a basis for tranquillity which will redound for the great benefit of the country.

"War was threatened by our boundary difficulty with the Argentine Republic. Both countries invested large sums for the organization of armies and powerful navies, and thus consumed many of their resources. Happily the wisdom of both countries prevailed, as always was the case, and all difficulties have disappeared from the horizon, owing to the arbitration of Her Majesty the Queen of England and of the distinguished ex-Minister of the United States in Buenos Ayres, Mr. BUCHANAN. The Argentine Republic and Chile enjoy to-day the most sincere friendship, and their cordial relations are assured forever.

"Our international problems having been solved and our principal economic questions having been disposed of, Chile began to think more than before of the development of its natural resources and its industries, extending its action to foreign countries.

"Chile protects all industries that might logically do all within their power to facilitate the fostering of commercial relations with other countries. Its ships will very soon reach Rio de Janeiro by the Atlantic, and within the past few months they reached the doors of Mexico, placing us thus in closer contact with our sister republics on the Pacific—even with the farthest ones—the Central American republics, and Mexico, for all of which Chile has always had the most cordial wishes. Before a month has passed these ships will have reached San Francisco, and in this way Chile, with its own steamships, will have

added a new link to the friendship which happily unites it with this great Republic of the North, and a commercial link, gentlemen, is the most powerful of the ties which can exist between the peoples who wish to develop their interests and increase their friendship.

"Gentlemen, all that might contribute to the tightening of the commercial relations of nations deserves to be applauded, and for this reason I congratulate sincerely the organizers of this Congress, hoping that it may prove very successful."

THE NITRATE INDUSTRY.

The paper of Mr. JOHN A. MYERS, Chilean delegate from Iquique, before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia related to the production of nitrate of soda in Chile. Mr. MYERS treated the subject exhaustively from both scientific and practical points of view, and presented its commercial aspects in part as follows:

* * * "Nitrate of soda is a natural product existing in enormous quantities in the arid regions of Chile, where it is mined in the crude state in the form of *caliche*. The *caliche* is broken into lumps, dissolved in water, and by the application of well-known chemical principles the nitrate of soda is separated from the impurities by crystallization.

"The center of the nitrate of soda industry is Iquique, a city of about 30,000 inhabitants, existing under the most artificial conditions. They have neither food, water, nor fuel except as it is transported to meet the demands of the people engaged, in one form or another, in the nitrate industry.

"The nitrate fields are estimated to cover 220,356 acres and to contain 227,939,893 long tons of sodium nitrate. The total production is said to have been:

"In 1884, 550,000 tons; 1885, 420,000; 1886, 443,000; 1887, 702,000; 1888, 779,000; 1889, 903,000; 1890, 1,009,000; 1891, 877,000; 1892, 804,000; 1893, 938,871; 1894, 1,082,285; 1895, 1,220,000; 1896, 1,092,000.

"The importation into the Atlantic coast ports of the United States were: For 1897, approximately, 98,750 tons; for 1898, approximately, 130,580 tons.

"The consumption for 1899 to date is approximately the same as for 1898.

"These figures do not include the importations on the Pacific coast of the United States, which are steadily increasing.

"In 1899, up to September 1, the exports to the United States had been 115,125 tons.

"The distribution of nitrate in the world is indicated approximately as follows:

"Thirty-nine per cent of the total product goes to Germany, 17 per cent to France, 15 per cent to the United States, 12 per cent to Great Britain, 10 per cent to Belgium, and the remainder is distributed among other countries.

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"A year or two ago the distinguished president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir WILLIAM CROOKS, called the attention of the world to the possibility of a wheat famine, due to the exhaustion of the nitrogen of the soil. More recently a distinguished scientist, Prof. BELA KOVASCY, has warned Hungary that that country can not continue indefinitely to impoverish its soil by the cultivation of wheat without suffering in the near future from inadequate production. Both Professor CROOKS and Professor KOVASCY have pointed out that it is necessary for the farmer to consider the restoration of the nitrogen supply to the soil. Both have mentioned nitrate of soda as at present forming the cheapest and most important natural source from which to derive the supplies of nitrogen."

Mr. MYERS also quoted at length the opinion of Prof. E. F. LADD, of the North Dakota Experiment Station, as to the results of his chemical analysis of the soil of the Red River Valley, showing the nitrogen supply of that section to have fallen from a total of 8,000 to 10,000 pounds per acre, to one of from 3,000 to 6,000 pounds, with a corresponding decrease per year in the yield of wheat, the conclusion being drawn from the foregoing that—

"We may confidently expect that the time is not far distant when the intelligent farmers of that section will realize that it is cheaper to increase the yield of their wheat fields from 5 to 10 bushels per acre, by the judicious use of 150 pounds of nitrate of soda, than it is to continue to farm them at constantly increasing cost and at constantly decreasing yield.

"In the crowded countries of Europe, where extensive farming is more generally pursued than in this country, the value of this powerful stimulating fertilizer has long since been recognized, but it is not so generally known in the United States. I said that our chemical fertilizers were composed of the waste products of the present and of the past, but in compounding these chemical fertilizers our manufacturers too often attempt to produce a fertilizer of medium or low nitrogen content, without properly considering the availability of the nitrogen which they are using, and the farmers of the country have not acquainted themselves sufficiently with the value of the different combinations of plant food to appreciate the necessity of having the nitrogen supply in commercial fertilizers in a form which will readily become available for plant food. The most serious criticism, perhaps, which can be made upon the commercial fertilizers manufactured in the United States is, that for general purposes their nitrogen content is too low, and there is hardly a fertilizer prepared in this country which may not be much improved, either by the addition of nitrate of soda or by having nitrate of soda applied as a supplemental fertilizer during the early period of plant growth."

THE PORT OF PUNTA ARENAS.

The "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" for September 28, 1899, publishes a very interesting report on the present and future conditions of Punta Arenas, which may be ranked among the cities of South America whose development has been almost phenomenal. A few years since it was merely a small village of a few shabby houses; now, with its fine buildings, broad streets, lighted by electricity, and generally flourishing aspect, it bids fair to become a large city. Besides large clubhouses and new public buildings, a theater, equaling in size and elegance those of Santiago and Valparaiso, has been recently erected.

The Territory of the Magallenes, which is nearly 200 kilometers square, abounds in all kinds of agricultural wealth and live stock, the latter showing remarkable annual increase. Punta Arenas offers a fine market for dealers in wool, skins, beef (salted and dried), lard, and tallow. It is estimated that the territory contains from 60,000 to 100,000 head of cattle, worth from 30 shillings to £2 a head, which might be shipped to Europe or utilized in canned-beef factories in the district. At Punta Delgada, Messrs. WALDRON & WOOD have already erected an establishment of this sort which gives good results. A tannery would also be a profitable investment. It is estimated that during last year ox hides and calfskins to the value of $200,000 were shipped from Punta Arenas, besides a considerable quantity of sheepskins. If this district continues to develop at the same rate as in recent years, Chile will very soon rank among the great wool-producing countries of the world.

Numerous steamers belonging to European lines have a monthly schedule with Punta Arenas, and the Chilean Government, recognizing the necessities of the port, will shortly inaugurate a passenger and freight service between Valparaiso and Punta Arenas with the two transports *Casena* and *Angamos*. Germany at present holds first commercial rank at this port, but it is well worth the attention of other nationalities.

INDUCEMENTS TO IMMIGRANTS.

One of the drawbacks against which Chile has ever to contend is the lack of laborers to develop the rich natural resources of the country. The several Governments at different times have made strenuous efforts to attract immigration, but unfortunately their labors have been almost fruitless. Past failures, however, have not discouraged this energetic Republic, and President ERRAZURIS recently sent a message to the National Congress inclosing the draft of a law looking to the enlargement of the population in those regions where the dearth of inhabitants is most keenly felt. The more prominent features of the bill are the following:

The President is authorized to expend within one year the sum of £25,000 in the transportation of native and alien workmen to such

places as the industrial needs and the public works may demand. He is also authorized to grant in the Provinces of Cautin, Malleco, Valdivia, Llanquihué, and Chiloé parcels of public land of 50 or 100 hectares, to every father of a family, and 20 hectares additional for each of his sons over the age of 12 years. This is to apply equally as well to aliens residing in the country as to native Chileans. To take advantage of this offer each head of a family must never have been convicted of a crime or misdemeanor; each Chilean must prove that he possesses a capital of $500 and each alien a capital of $1,000, made through his own efforts in the country. The President is further authorized to expend a sum not exceeding $200,000 in properly preparing the lands he may have set apart for colonization, and for other expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of the law.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The following table shows the percentage that each Chilean industry contributed to the total exports during the year 1898, which, as published in the October BULLETIN, amounted in the aggregate to $168,069,431:

	Per cent.
Mining	75.41
Agriculture	7.86
Manufactures	2.71
Wines, liquors, and spirits	.11
Animals and their products	3.73
Coined money	8.36
Re-exportations	1.10
Other articles	.72
Total	100.00

The Minister of Spain in Santiago, Chile, has recently signed a contract with the Chilean Government in behalf of the "Compañia Española Trasatlántica," which stipulates the payment to said company of £25,000 in consideration of the establishment of a regular steamship service to place Chile and Spain in direct communication. The duration of the contract is four years. The steamers of the company will call at Valparaiso every fifteen days, touching at certain ports of Brazil, Uruguay, and the Argentine Republic, as well as Punta Arenas. The company reserves the right to later call at the ports of northern Chile, and is to enjoy all the privileges granted to other navigation companies having contracts with the Chilean Government.

Reports from Iquique are to the effect that the shipments of nitrate during the month of July, 1899, amounted to 1,858,500 quintals, as against 901,993 in 1898, and 1,894,856 in 1897.

The nitrates were shipped to the following countries:

	Quintals.		Quintals.
England	306,120	Belgium	174,324
Germany	706,324	Holland	152,864
France	302,477	United States	406,804

The total export for the first six months of 1899 was 14,427,841 quintals; in 1898, 11,422,411, and in 1897, 10,283,976.

Bids for the waterworks and sewerage system of the city of Concepción will be received on January 3, 1899, at the Department of the Interior, Santiago. The provisional bonds are fixed at 10,000 pesos and the final bonds at 50,000 pesos. The works must be done within thirty months.

Reports from Valparaiso to the Nitrate Association in that city show that up to October 15, 1899, the consumption of nitrate by European countries has amounted to 1,037,840 tons, an increase of 105,830 tons over the amount taken in 1898.

The extensive coal fields discovered in the southern provinces of Arauco, Malleco, and Cautin are a matter of great interest to the Chilean Government, and a new commission of engineers will shortly proceed thither to make a comprehensive report.

On November 11 the Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile unanimously declared that the scarcity of currency should be relieved. A motion favoring the issue of $30,000,000 in paper money was lost, and a recommendation to issue 30,000,000 silver pesos was adopted. The project will be submitted to Congress.

The Chilean Chamber of Deputies, on November 11, passed the bill to revive the United States and Chilean Claims Commission, which sat in Washington in 1892–93. The Convention providing for this revival, which was ratified in Chile with two unimportant amendments, will be submitted to the United States Senate at its next session for ratification.

According to the "Boletin Sociedad de Fomento Fabril," published in Santiago during the first half year of 1899, there were issued by the Government 63 patents.

The French Consul at Valparaiso has informed his Government that the recent tempests have partly destroyed the quays of the harbor of that city, which necessitates the construction of a dry dock.

The firm of Francisco, Muñoz, Silva y Cia has laid before the authorities of Valparaiso a proposition to furnish the city with electric lights.

Large deposits of petroleum are reported to have been discovered in the Magellan territory, near Sandy Point (Punta Arenas).

The Germans in Valparaiso are considering a project of establishing a fire insurance company with a capital of $2,000,000.

COLOMBIA.

GUARANTY FOR FOREIGN LOAN.

Under date of August 25, 1899, Hon. CHARLES BURDETT HART, United States Minister at Bogotá, transmitted the following report to the Department of State at Washington, with reference to the contracting of a foreign loan by the Colombian Government:

"By Executive decree of the 18th instant, just published, the Colombian Government announces that, in order to change the paper money of the country into silver money, it will seek a foreign loan of £3,000,000 ($14,599,500). As a guaranty for this loan, the Government offers to pledge the rental of the emerald mines of Muzo and Coscuez, the product of the match monopoly, the annual sums due from the Panama Railroad Company to the Republic, and the interest of the Republic in the Panama Canal. By another decree of the same date, the reestablishment of a national bank is authorized, the shares of the bank to be offered to the public. The Government has other resources which, it is believed, it would put in pledge, if necessary, to secure this loan, namely, the customs receipts, the valuable salt mines (the production and sale of salt being a Government monopoly), and the Sabana Railroad, 40 kilometers (24 miles) of well-equipped railroad between Facatativa and Bogota."

The guaranty offered for the loan is regarded as of considerable value. The Muzo emerald mines are the most famous in the world. They were discovered in 1555, and are situated about 75 miles from Bogotá. Mining began in 1568, and so great was the output of fine stones that they ceased to be rare. They have been worked almost continuously since then, and although there is no record of the quantity and the value of the stones produced the mines have made the fortunes for many generations of lessees. They are now operated by a French company, which insists that for the last few years the find of emeralds has been almost nothing. Nevertheless, crude emeralds reach Bogotá in considerable quantities.

The salt mines have an average yield of about 22,000 tons yearly. This is worth about $900,000, and it is claimed that the profit to the Government is over 70 per cent. The value of the match monopoly is fixed by the Government at not less than 640,000 francs ($123,520) per year. (See MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899, pp. 2165–2166.) The Panama Canal concession consists of the right of way across the Isthmus, and its value is not determinable.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A stock company, with a capital of $4,300,000, is being formed for the establishment of a large cotton factory at Medellin.

On the 30th of December, 1899, bids will be received at Panama for the construction of an aqueduct for the water service of that city. The conditions of the invitations for bids for this work is contained in Advance Sheets of the United States Consular Reports issued November 15, 1899.

According to a report recently made by the Board of National Statistics to the Minister of the Interior, the exports from Colombian ports during the year 1898 amounted to $19,735,733.84, gold, and the imports to $11,346,028.12, gold. The balance of trade, therefore, for the time in question, is in favor of Colombia in the sum of $8,389,705.72, gold.

COSTA RICA.

COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

On October 28, 1899, in addressing the International Commercial Congress, at Philadelphia, Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Costa Rica, dwelt upon the rapidly increasing commercial intercourse between the two Republics, as follows:

"The honorable delegates have heard the remarks of the distinguished gentlemen from Costa Rica on the people, resources, climate, and opportunities offered by that country to capital and industry from abroad, and, consequently, to the prospects for a large development of trade relations with all nations to which we offer our products in exchange for theirs, and to whose children Costa Rica offers, with the treasures of its unexploited soil and the welcome of an industrious, orderly, and law-abiding population, the benefits of a stable government.

"Indeed, nothing could be more satisfactory than to refer in this connection to the remarkable fact that Costa Rica has not to-day, nor ever had at any time, claims presented to her for damages or injuries caused by arbitrary acts on the part of her civil or military authorities against the citizens of other nations.

"As for the character of that country allow me to quote, among other authorities, what the Central and South American Commissioners, sent in 1884 from the United States, said in their report: 'The name of Costa Rica stands high as a Republic, alive to the demands of a progressive, freedom-loving people, her institutions and her wealth, her industry and improvements, bespeak a nation whose face is to the future and whose enterprise will carry her to the high position her natural endowments and resources and advanced ideas demand.'

"It seems to me unnecessary to say anything more about the guaranties that persons and property enjoy in that rich country, and therefore about the opportunities to invest capital or to enlarge by other means the sphere of our activities.

"In regard to the United States the report of the above-mentioned

Commissioners said: 'It is a source of congratulation to know that not only are American wares and merchandise increasingly consumed in Costa Rica, but there is a growing desire on the part of its people to establish more cordial relations, commercial and international, with the United States. * * * Beyond a doubt the increasing attention of this country to the economy, industry, and commerce of Latin America has already met a cordial response in Costa Rica.'

"This was in 1884, and about the exactitude of this assertion the volume of commerce of to-day answers with gratifying evidences.

"In 1889 the only country which led the United States in commerce with Costa Rica was Great Britain, and in 1890 the United States took the lead even over Great Britain.

"To our gratification the attention of a considerable number of wealthy business men of this country, who have realized that there is a large field in Costa Rica, has been directed to that country, and, in the last three years especially, several millions of dollars have been invested there in mining and agricultural enterprises, electric-light and electric-traction plants, and other improvements, with bright prospects for an enlargement of the business of the same.

"These conditions at present, and the hopes we entertain in the success of the work of this Congress, insure for the future a greater extension of our commerce, and therefore of the commercial relations of Costa Rica with other nations."

The development of trade intercourse between Costa Rica and the United States formed the subject-matter of the paper of Mr. BENJAMIN E. PIZA, a delegate from the former country, before the International Commercial Congress at its session of October 28, 1899, and many practical suggestions regarding the minutiæ of commercial progress were made which, if adopted, would be of substantial benefit to United States merchants. Mr. PIZA spoke, in part, as follows:

* * * * * * *

"It must be taken into consideration that much of the increase of our Costa Rica trade with the United States is due to the smaller distance that separates us from this market. This great advantage, which means time and consequently money, makes us in some instances overlook greater advantages offered by the European countries, which, owing to constant study of our markets, know well and meet fully all our requirements. Not one summer goes by without crowds of European traveling agents visiting Costa Rica (the greater part of them Germans, of course), and I can assure you that every information they can gather with regard to the improvement of any of their particular lines is carefully noted and invariably put into practice. Placing aside the technical way of doing business, in which they fully meet our wants, there are innumerable small details which constitute together an important item, and in which the Europeans, and most particularly the Germans, excel. They have, for instance, constituted their office work in such a manner that they are able to state on their invoices not only the

first cost, but also the gross and net weight, measurement, and invoice expenses of every package; sometimes even of every article. And in countries like ours, where the goods reach us often after the invoice, such detailed statements enable the receiver to calculate in advance the local expenses and final cost of the goods and to sell these on sample.

"With regard to the packing of goods in boxes, Americans, to use one of their favorite expressions, 'are not in it.' The same thick, heavy boards used for boxes sent to countries where custom-house duties are paid *ad valorem* are employed for goods sent to Costa Rica, where the duties are charged per gross weight, and many have been the instances in which American boxes, heavier and larger than their contents, have paid, naturally, more duty than the goods which they contained.

"It is, besides, a well-known fact that delicate articles packed in the United States reach our countries with immense breakage and damage, and that, as a rule, whatever may be the conditions of the insurance effected against breakage, it is little less than impossible to obtain redress. The minute and difficult formalities which such claims have to undergo are so numerous that in the generality of cases the claims are abandoned.

"These and many other small obstacles, which sum up to important drawbacks, would, in my opinion, be easily obliterated, or at least very materially corrected, if American commercial agents were to visit our markets often and become acquainted with their various peculiarities.

"Now, regarding this point, I must hasten to explain that though I approve the system of sending out traveling agents as a means of obtaining reliable information, I decidedly condemn it when it is imprudently employed with the view of forcing trade. Such system can not fail to produce most disastrous results. In their eagerness to sell, to beat the record, to show off, the generality of traveling salesmen in our countries granted credits indiscriminately to people who did not deserve it and who did not understand the import business. The consequence of this was that the sound part of our commerce was greatly prejudiced by an unreasonable cutthroat competition, which ended naturally in the wreck of the small buyers and heavy losses to the sellers. This is to a great extent the cause of the kind of fear with which the greater part of the Spanish-American countries are regarded just now.

"If trade is soberly conducted, if credit is judiciously granted, there are nine probabilities against one that both interests in connection will honestly ally in order to avert a crisis, or at least very materially subdue the effects of it. Therefore, when I suggest that our countries be more frequently visited by American agents, by this I mean competent business men thoroughly conversant with the nature and details of American trade, capable of appreciating the importance of the several little obstacles which we find in the American system, and of justly

analyzing our commercial and financial condition as well as our immense agricultural resources. Let this be done, and I repeat that I feel certain the first great step is taken toward the peaceful, voluntary, and mutually profitable union of all the American countries in their commercial intercourse."

* * * * * * *

Following Mr. PIZA, the Congress was addressed by Mr. JOHN M. KEITH, also a delegate from Costa Rica, who, in speaking of the opportunities for investment of capital in the Republic, called attention to the growing exports of agricultural products, as follows:

"From an experimental shipment of a few hundred bunches of bananas in 1880, the exportation has increased to over 3,000,000 bunches per annum.

"In connection with this trade, it may be well to mention incidentally that the fundamental obstacle to the establishment of transportation facilities with Spanish America has been the absence of bulk in its products compared with their value. As an instance, the total tonnage to and from the Atlantic seaboard of Costa Rica, exclusive of bananas, amounts to only 30,000 tons per annum; whereas, its total value is nearly $10,000,000, American gold. Thanks, however, to the banana traffic, we have at present four steamers weekly to and from the United States. With these exceptional shipping facilities, you will readily appreciate one of the main factors of our increasing commerce with the United States. The banana business has not only been advantageous to American commerce with Costa Rica, but also to the entire coast washed by the Caribbean Sea to which eighty-odd steamers, mostly owned or controlled by Americans, ply in a trade in which the exchange of American produce for bananas and other fruits is its characteristic feature.

* * * * * * *

"There are a number of new districts recently opened up to agricultural enterprise where coffee can be profitably cultivated, notwithstanding the fall in the price of inferior grades. A Philadelphia syndicate is one of the most prominent pioneers in planting coffee in the Turrialba district, which, in common with other new regions, produces a quality of coffee which recent sales have demonstrated to be equal to the best produced by the country and guarantee a good profit.

* * * * * * *

"Notwithstanding that over 80 per cent of the coffee exported is shipped to Europe, nearly 50 per cent of the imports come from the United States, and it consumes American goods to the amount of $7.50 per capita, against an average consumption of $1.40 for all Latin America.

* * * * * * *

"The cattle business is one of the most profitable enterprises in the country. Those familiar with the industry state that no country in Central America can compete with its natural advantages of climate,

soil, and abundance of pure water, which makes the Atlantic slope an ideal place for planting cultivated grasses for the purpose of raising and fattening stock. Not only does the domestic market demand more cattle than the country supplies, but we have open to us the demand of Cuba for fat cattle at a price yielding a large profit."

EFFICIENCY OF THE PARCELS POST SERVICE.

One of the most interesting papers read before the International Commercial Congress, now in session in Philadelphia, was one contributed by Mr. J. M. KEITH, of Costa Rica, treating of the parcels post service between his country and the United States. Mr. KEITH testified to the advantages accruing from such service in the following terms:

"I take great pleasure in giving my testimony to the efficiency of 'parcels post' between the United States and the country I represent, Costa Rica. We have had a parcels post arrangement with the United States since April, 1890. Before that time we were forced to send out packages by means of the International Express Company, which would charge us anywhere from $2 to $5 for the most insignificant package. At the present time we can send a package weighing 5 kilograms (12 pounds) into the United States from Costa Rica, and vice versa. This is of great advantage to our merchants, who avail themselves of the parcels post in bringing novelties in, and a thousand and one other things which they do not care to send at the regular steamship rates. We also have the advantage of foreigners being able to receive their remembrances on Christmas and on their birthdays, which is a connecting link between themselves and those at home. It is difficult for them to secure in any other way the advantage of the parcels post. This is really of great use to the foreign colony abroad. When the United States Government proposed to make parcels post treaties throughout South America, by which the United States is really helping the American colony as much as by any other provisions of treaty, it was found to be a connecting link between Americans abroad and our friends at home.

"We have also in Costa Rica great facilities for clearing goods through the custom-house when they come by parcels post. Such packages reach us from New York and Philadelphia in about eight days, and on their arrival are sent immediately to the interior, being cleared at the custom-house by a special officer detailed for that purpose. Therefore, in nine days, at the utmost, we are able to receive our packages, which, if they came to us by any other means, would not reach us for a fortnight or three weeks."

DOMESTIC CONDITIONS.

No paper read before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, during the course of its "Pan-American" days, was

heard with greater interest than that of Dr. J. J. ULLOA, Consul-General of Costa Rica in the United States. While deprecating the prevailing false impressions as to the domestic conditions attending residence in that country, he took occasion to state that:

"One of the first things a Costa Rican does when he has a little money to spare, and in many instances he goes as far as to borrow it to satisfy his desire, is to travel abroad, where, although always ready for a good time, he knows also how to derive ample profit from his vacation in his own behalf and also in that of the small portion of land of which he is so proud. All foreign observers express their admiration when they find in Costa Rica many of the achievements of civilization which are wanted in several larger and much older countries.

"The best class of people are very highly educated; they speak one or two languages besides their mother tongue, and among them are found a vast number of privileged sons of the different arts.

"Besides the fact of the Costa Rican race being of an unmixed and purely white origin, there is the one of all the people being, in a greater or smaller scale, property owners, the union of which two facts constitute the principal reason for their hard-working and extraordinary peaceful disposition."

Dr. ULLOA added:

"Our houses have all the modern conveniences, and we live with all the requirements of civilization and comfort in relation to our mild climate and social exigencies.

"Our public buildings are numerous, spacious, and ornamental. We have theaters, churches, libraries, hospitals, and asylums, railroads, tramways, and fine cart roads, waterworks, electric light, good public and sanitary service, and in fact in a small scale all the conveniences you enjoy in Philadelphia.

"Our population is a little more than 300,000; that is to say, about the sixth part of this great city, which more than a hundred years ago was the birthplace of the most wonderful and far-reaching experiment that liberty ever undertook."

NEW MERCANTILE AGENCY.

Mr. JUAN RAFEL MATA writes to the Bureau of the American Republics that for the purpose of extending the commercial relations of Costa Rica with the United States an office has been opened at San Jose which will be known as "Agencia Mercantil de Costa Rica" (Costa Rican Mercantile Agency), to which will be added a permanent exhibition of the manufactures and products of the United States. Mr. MATA is director and MANUEL ARAGÓN manager of this agency, the former having also been unanimously elected by the merchants, bankers, and other business men of Costa Rica as a delegate to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The Government of Costa Rica continues the preparatory steps necessary to carrying into effect the reform in the monetary system of that Republic upon a gold basis. The law in the premises and a full statement of the plan were published in the November, 1896, and March, 1898, numbers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

The term established for the conversion will expire on December 31, 1900; in the meanwhile the Government has been accumulating a reserve fund which already amounts to $3,000,000 in gold coins of the new issue.

"The financial condition of the country," says the President of the Republic in his last message, "is at present little flattering, for it being impossible for us to escape from the causes which have brought about a depreciation in the public wealth throughout the Continent, it was natural that here also there should be felt the uneasiness resulting from this situation. This circumstance, which is aggravated by the decline in coffee, would perforce bring about a reduction in the public revenues, and in order to avoid exposing ourselves to a disproportion between the receipts and expenditures, which must compromise interests which did not yet exist as elements of the economic life, my Government thought it prudent to introduce without delay all manner of economy in the several executive branches, preserving only such services as are essential to the proper conduct of the State and the accomplishment of its natural purposes."

"The receipts of the Treasury," says the message, "including $1,136,822.50, the amount of the dividend of the ordinary shares of the Atlantic Railway held by the Government in 1898, were $8,413,198.80, in Costa Rican money, and the expenditures amount to $8,060,655.05, a surplus of $352,543.75 remaining. The aggregate of the revenues of 1898–99 is less than that of the year 1897–98 by $10,905.50, and exceeds the sum estimated by $343,450.72."

The amounts of the foreign commerce during the last five years have been as follows:

[In United States gold.]

	Imports.	Exports.
1894	$4,113,223.66	$5,033,113.14
1895	3,851,460.34	5,188,401.78
1896	4,748,812.62	5,597,727.01
1897	5,460,944.51	5,474,773.50
1898	4,258,896.04	5,659,218.56

—there remaining, as may be seen, in this short, time a surplus of $4,519,896.82 United States gold in favor of the country.

The trade with the United States, which in 1894 represented 33.64 per cent of the imports, in 1898 rose to 44.80 per cent. Not so, however, with the exports, in which England represented 56 per cent, due

to the high price which the coffee of Costa Rica, owing to its excellent quality, maintains in that market.

The total amount of the fine grades of this bean exported in 1898 was 18,329,263 kilos, of which 10,821,076 were shipped to England, bringing, according to the reviews of the "Crédit Lyonnais," of London, which publishes the price at which each lot is sold, an average of 66s. per quintal of 112 pounds, which is equivalent to $11.12, gold, net, in Costa Rica per quintal of 46 kilos. The lower grades, amounting to 1,156,862 kilos, the Bureau of Statistics estimates as sold at 5 cents a pound, wherein it might well be demonstrated there is a commendable pessimism. In the exports for 1898, thus estimated, the value of coffee was $4,209,569.15.

Of late years the production of other articles of export has been increasing. During the year 1898 there were exported 2,331,036 bunches of bananas, and about 3,000 new *manzanas* of this fruit have been planted. The exports of woods and precious metals also grow in satisfactory proportions.

Owing to this condition of business in general, the rates of foreign exchange have been maintained in Costa Rica on a very favorable basis, the country being free from the serious difficulties which are to-day experienced in other countries. To this end there have contributed the timely measures of the Government, bearing in mind the disproportion which the falling off in the price of coffee might incur, and undoubtedly the reserve in gold coin, and other combinations tending to the reform in the monetary system.

ECUADOR.

GUAYAQUIL AND QUITO RAILWAY.

In a recent communication from Quito it is stated that on July 16, 1899, work was commenced on the construction of the railroad connecting that city with Guayaquil. The contract for the building of this road was let to Mr. ARCHER HARMAN, of New York, on June 14, 1897, but the award was not approved by the Congress of Ecuador until November, 1898. (See MONTHLY BULLETIN, January, 1899.) The officers of the company are citizens of the United States, while the board of directors is composed of fifteen citizens of the United States, four Englishmen, and three citizens of Ecuador. When completed the road will be 350 miles in length.

GUATEMALA.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The following notes on the commercial relations of Guatemala with the United States of America were prepared by Señor DON ANTONIO LAZO ARRIAGA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Guatemala in Washington and Official Delegate to the International Commercial Congress of Philadelphia:

"It is to-day a universally recognized fact that nothing brings two peoples together like the community of interest which is born of the interchange of their products, of the ease and cheapness of their communications, and, in a word, of the expansion or development of their commercial relations.

"From this point as well as from other points of view it may be asserted that the bonds existing between Central America and the United States of America—already strong by reasons of proximity, of analogy in their political institutions, and of a never-interrupted good understanding—tend to become daily closer, as is evidenced by the increasing figures of their import and export trade.

"In this growing exchange of the fruits of the activity and labor of the nations of the Isthmus with the elder sister of the continent that of Guatemala occupies no mean place.

"It is not so many years since the United States occupied the fifth place among the countries from which nearly all our importations proceeded. Since then, slowly at first, with greater rapidity later, but with steadiness ever, the North American manufacturer and farmer have been conquering, inch by inch, the field which powerful and previously established rivals disputed in our markets.

"In 1894 the United States had already reached the first place among the countries that send us their manufactures and products, securing 26 per cent of the total imports. Great Britain had 24 per cent and Germany 13 per cent.

"In 1895 the proportions were: The United States, 36 per cent; Great Britain, 21 per cent, and Germany, 23 per cent. It may be noticed that in a single year the German and North American imports increased 10 per cent, while those from England fell off 3 per cent.

"In 1896 the German and North American imports maintained almost the same proportion—the former 22 per cent, and the latter 34 per cent. Those from Great Britain were 23 per cent.

"In 1897 the relative position of these countries in our imports was: The United States, 33 per cent; Great Britain, 21 per cent, and Germany, 21 per cent. I should note that in this year the German importations reached, for the first time in our commercial history, the same volume as the English. This demonstrates that not only the North

American competitor, but also the German, is little by little dislodging the English manufacturer from our market.

"The figures for last year, 1898, confirm this statement still better. Great Britain only figured with 18 per cent in our imports, while Germany went up to 24 per cent and the United States to 39 per cent, the latter thus leaving their rivals far behind.

"The commercial position of the United States in Guatemala is already, as is evident, very enviable, and nevertheless it could easily be better if the North American manufacturer or exporter were to give more importance to the following considerations, which, though already well known, will bear repetition:

"*1.* The commodity should be made, not according to the preconceived ideas of the manufacturer, but befitting the taste and necessities of the consumer. Manufacturers would increase their business and obtain greater profits were they to send experts to study, on the ground, the desires, tastes, needs, and even the demands of the consumer, who is, when everything has been said, the sovereign judge in the selection of the article he intends buying.

"*2. Packing.*—The North American exporter gives little or no importance to this point, which is of great transcendence to the Central American merchant. Very often the latter has to pay customs duties on the gross weight of an article, and from that moment the weight of the packing, etc., becomes a vital question. On the other hand, everyone knows that while European merchandise reaches our markets in a perfect condition, owing to the careful way in which it was packed and shipped, North American commodities are frequently received there, by reason of their poor packing, in such a condition that they cause losses to those ordering them. The efforts the Philadelphia Commercial Museum is making at this time to teach the best method of preparing and shipping articles destined abroad are very laudable and are a step in the right direction.

"*3. Credits.*—The usual practice in this country of selling on short time is entirely inapplicable among us, where the merchant has to dispose of the article by opening credit to his patrons. It is almost impossible, then, for him to be able to collect within the proper time the necessary funds to meet his obligations, and hence he either finds himself compelled to fail in them, or is forced to give the preference to European merchandise, which is sold on longer time and on conditions which make the payment easy.

"*4. Cheapness of transportation.*—One of the great obstacles to its expansion which North American commerce has met is the high—almost prohibitive—freight rates which for many years were maintained by certain transportation companies who enjoyed the privilege of a veritable monopoly in this service. To illustrate this point I shall cite a case which, although it seems improbable, is not therefore less true. A serious and prominent merchant in New York said to me some time

ago that the freight rates from that port to Colón (Aspinwall) are so high that he, to reduce the expenses of his patron, shipped some articles for San José de Guatemala by way of Liverpool! In my opinion, therefore, the establishment of new lines of steamers which, through judicious competition, would reduce the rates to rational standards, ought to be favored.

"*5. Banking facilities.*—This is a point which has greater influence than is ordinarily believed on the volume of international commercial transactions, and, treating of the mercantile business of Guatemala with the United States, the question is graver still if we bear in mind that the greater part of our coffee—our principal article of export—we sell in Germany and England, and that consequently we find ourselves compelled to pay for the North American articles by drafts on Hamburg or London, thus giving the bankers of those places a profit that ought to go to the North Americans if the United States would furnish us the same banking facilities.

"Many other useful suggestions might be made in the premises, but I will omit them to-day in behalf of brevity, so as not to give this paper too much length. I will only say that they have been recorded in detail in numerous publications of an official or private character and repeated in the periodical which serves as the organ to the Association of Manufacturers of this country.

"Four or five years ago the price of coffee was so high that it brought about a state of general prosperity in Central America as well as in the other countries producing this bean. Our peoples enjoyed welfare and comforts rarely obtained. Work abounded; the soil yielded rich harvests; the farmer added to his lands; the merchant imported from abroad commodities in unusual quantities; the yearly amount of imports and exports was doubled and even trebled, and, in a word, commerce, invigorated by a flourishing agriculture, was developed with a rapidity not seen before.

"But this same high price of coffee powerfully stimulated production, making it greater than the consumption of the precious bean, and since then the former has been falling off, and consequently affecting the volume of the mercantile transactions of all those countries with coffee as their principal article of export.

"Guatemala could not be an exception, and her commerce in the last three years has had to suffer the effects of the phenomenon noted; but they are, fortunately, of a transient character and will leave us the permanent benefit of having been made to feel the necessity of possessing a varied production, which is already impelling our people along salutary paths. In our fields new and promising cultivations are being initiated, such as that of the rubber or caoutchouc tree, vanilla, etc., and more care is given to others formerly disregarded, such as tobacco, cacao, bananas, and other tropical fruits.

"The equilibrium of our production and consumption, momentarily

disturbed, will thus be reestablished; commercial operations will soon recover—as I hope—their habitual activity, and our markets will continue offering to the North American manufacturer the vast field presented by new countries, virgin still, which only await for their development the energy of the European immigrant, whom we welcome with affection on our shores, and the fruitful action of foreign capital, which will surely realize flattering profits in advantageous enterprises.

"Our soil is rich, and adapted to productions numerous and varied; our climate is mild and perfectly suited to the white races; our laws are clear, liberal, and advanced; our people are peaceful, laborious, and progressive; our political and social institutions are similar to those of other cultured countries; our system of popular education, which rests on the broad basis of the lay school, obligatory and gratuitous, extends its beneficent influence to the cities and important towns as well as to the most remote hamlets and settlements; our colleges and universities employ the best methods, and are organized with an eye to the most commendable models; our means of communication are increased from year to year by new highways, railroads, and steamship lines; our towns, several of them illuminated with the electric light and enjoying the advantages of an ample and cheap telephonic service, are all connected by an extensive telegraphic web which places them in immediate contact with the entire world. The desire to improve, in a word, is innate in my fellow-citizens, and, with such good elements, we trust in the future and entertain well-founded hopes of permanent well being and prosperity, which will permit us to realize our destiny in peace and offer ample horizons to the capital and labor of the peoples with whom we live in intimate contact and on friendly terms."

TAX FOR THE RESHIPMENT OF FOREIGN GOODS.

A decree of the President of the Republic, dated September 6, 1899, orders that from the date of promulgation there shall be paid in the custom-houses of the country a reshipment tax of 2 pesos on every kilo (gross weight) of foreign merchandise. This duty was formerly 1 peso for every 50 kilos of merchandise, gross.

HAITI.

AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS.

The future of Haitian development, as deduced from the existing conditions, formed the subject-matter of the address of the Consul-General of Haiti in New York, Mr. J. NICOLAS, before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia. He gave many interesting particulars of the intellectual and political progress of the country, which indicate the energetic character of this Republic and expressed

the prevailing desire of the inhabitants to maintain closer friendly relations with the people of the United States.

Speaking of the commercial and agricultural outlook, he said:

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"The principal articles of export from Haiti are coffee, cocoa, logwood, mahogany, yellowwood, cotton, wax, honey, skins and hides, lignum-vitæ, gum guaiacum, seashells, turtle-shells, orange peel, ginger, rum, etc.

"The depreciation in the ruling price of coffee has affected Haiti, as it has all other coffee-producing countries. It is for this reason, due to overproduction, that Haiti has begun to give a new direction to its agriculture in starting up the sugar industry, the cultivation of tobacco, of the castor-oil plant, and of cotton, all on quite a large scale.

"Notwithstanding the large home consumption, Haiti exports annually from 70,000,000 to 86,000,000 pounds of coffee, and in order to sustain advantageously the struggle against other producing markets, and especially to maintain for its coffee the place that it has always held in European markets, where it is preferred on account of its flavor and exquisite taste, the Government has encouraged the establishment of machinery for cleaning it and properly preparing it for export. The machinery has been bought, for the most part, in the United States. There still remains an open field for new demands in this line, demands which will become more and more important as competition becomes more and more active.

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"Taking the year 1893 as an average, the total value of the foreign commerce of Haiti amounted to $19,770,867.91, the exportations figuring for $12,163,059 and the importations for $7,607,817, not counting the specific importation of $1,131,235 in American gold.

"In the interest of showing the importance of the development which the commerce of Haiti with the United States has attained, it is noteworthy that the importation of American products is larger than all the importations from France, England, and Germany together.

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"In 1872 imports from the United States amounted to $2,487,210. In 1893 these importations amounted to $5,389,169.05. It is thus seen that imports from the United States nearly tripled in twenty-one years. Here, then, is the proof that commerce with the United States has developed considerably. This development will grow in proportion as Haiti shall construct railways which will permit her to open up to development her most secluded localities.

"It is in the United States that the rails and locomotives were purchased for the railway of Cape Haitien; it is there that all the material for the tramways of Port au Prince and Aux Cayes was purchased; it is to the United States also that Mr. B. PROPHETE, the concessionaire of a new railway, proposes to address himself for his materials, and it

is there that the Government of Haiti purchased its bridges and the material for its foundries and its dry dock at Port au Prince.

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"During the past three years the production of cocoa and of cotton has been doubled.

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"Besides the cultivation of tobacco and the sugar industry, which, as has already been mentioned, have just been resumed on a large scale in Haiti, there are to-day in the country manufactories of soap, of candles, of matches, of ice, of beer, of vermicelli, of macaroni, of crockery, of brick, and of cigars. The manufactories of alcohol and rum are more particularly the specialties of the cities of Port au Prince and Aux Cayes.

"Mines of coal, of iron, of porphyry, of plaster of paris, of sulphur, and of other minerals have been discovered and are known to exist in different parts of the country. The development of one of the mines of iron and plaster of paris is about to be entered upon. A company with a capital of $5,000,000 at its command for this purpose has recently been formed in New York, and its engineers are already at work on the spot. It is confidently anticipated that both of these articles will find a market in the United States, the demand for iron becoming more and more important. And as to plaster of paris, Haiti has this advantage over Nova Scotia, which furnishes the United States with this article, that she will be able to deliver it at all seasons of the year.

"Haiti is connected by two submarine cables with all the civilized world, namely, that of the French trans-Atlantic cable service and that of the United States and Haiti Cable Company.

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"The question of credit is an obstacle to the development of the commerce between Haiti and the United States. It is to be desired that manufacturers should give longer credits to purchasing firms, in order that these latter may extend the same privileges to Haitian merchants. He who has traveled in South and Central America and the West Indies will answer you that the credit of three months, which is generally accorded by American commission houses, is too limited for these countries. No one can count on finding in these countries the hustling of business which is so notable in Chicago and New York.

"Therefore it is to be desired that, as in Europe, the commission houses should accord at least a credit of nine months to the merchants of these countries.

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"There is still another deficiency—it is the paucity or lack of the means of direct exchange between Haiti and the United States."

MEXICO.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND OUTLOOK.

Among the delegates from Mexico to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia was Mr. SALVADOR ECHEGARAY, whose paper on the various conditions affecting Mexican trade was listened to with great attention. His remarks, containing, as they do, much valuable information for merchants and exporters of the United States, were substantially as follows:

"During the last twenty-five years the Republic of Mexico, under President Diaz's Government, has enjoyed peace; the construction of 10,000 miles of railroads, the improvement of some of the ports, the general development of the country, and increase of public wealth have been made possible.

"Our imports in the fiscal year of 1874–75 did not reach 19,000,000 Mexican dollars, while in the last fiscal year they amounted to 106,285,307 dollars, an increase of nearly 600 per cent. Our exports in 1875 were 27,318,788 Mexican dollars, and in the last year 138,478,137 Mexican dollars, an increase of 500 per cent.

"Following in order of importance the principal articles imported into Mexico are as follows:

Machinery	$16,775,562	Wood textiles	$3,877,971
Cotton textiles	12,292,190	Paper and manufactures	3,841,244
Iron and steel	11,920,291	Textile fibers	2,541,878
Wines and liquors	5,590,984		

"The most important products we export were in the last fiscal year:

Silver	$66,431,541	Lead	$3,786,144
Henequen	18,711,325	Copper	4,135,613
Gold	8,843,081	Hides	3,646,915
Coffee	7,936,908	Precious wood	1,896,908
Cattle	4,918,572	Broom root	1,055,669

"The foreign commerce of Mexico in the last seven fiscal years has been as follows:

Years.	Importation (declared value in gold).			Exportation (declared value in silver).		
	From United States.	From other countries.	Total.	To United States.	To other countries.	Total.
1892–93	$26,235,963	$17,177,168	$43,413,131	$63,791,741	$23,717,466	$87,509,207
1893–94	14,351,785	15,935,704	30,287,489	60,660,243	18,683,044	79,343,287
1894–95	15,130,367	18,870,073	34,000,440	67,322,986	23,531,967	90,854,953
1895–96	20,145,763	22,108,175	42,253,938	79,651,695	25,365,207	105,016,902
1896–97	22,593,869	19,610,235	42,204,095	86,742,951	24,603,543	111,346,494
1897–98	21,490,604	22,112,888	43,603,492	94,974,616	33,998,133	128,972,749
1898–99	24,164,687	26,704,507	50,869,194	103,553,486	34,924,651	138,478,137
Total	144,113,029	142,518,750	286,631,779	556,697,718	184,824,011	741,521,729

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"The greater demand for cotton goods in Mexico at this time, due to the increase of public welfare and population, produces scarcely any effect in the increase of imports of foreign cottons, because the new demand has been supplied by the native factories, of which there are a large number equipped with every modern improvement. Mexico has to-day 155 cotton mills in operation and many others under construction.

"Foreign beer has practically disappeared from Mexican markets, its place being filled by excellent domestic beer. The importation of white paper is also likely to disappear within a short time, and we have also many smelting plants of great importance.

"The lowering of the price of silver has produced an entirely different effect on the silver production in Mexico than it did in the United States. When the price of this metal reached a certain point in this country several mines had to be closed, while in Mexico veins were daily opened, the cost of production remaining almost the same, its extradition, labor, and transportation being paid as formerly. In the price of some imported goods, such as iron, steel, dynamite, coal, and engines, we must pay a larger amount than formerly, but, while this reduces the miner's earnings a little, it constitutes an incentive for the increase of production, because, as is well known, a small profit from an increased number of units is a mighty incentive to the increase of production.

"Mexico, which in years past occupied the second place as a silver producer, ranking next to the United States, took the first place in the year 1897–98, and if she is again in the second place it is only by a very small margin, a little over $1,000,000.

"The exports of other metals and agricultural products is strongly protected by the high rate of exchange, which makes mining and husbandry productive in places where the great distance from the ports would otherwise prevent their being worked with profit.

"As gold producers we keep the fourth place, the fifth as lead producers, and the sixth as producers of copper. Within four years we shall double our exports of the last metal, of which we have extensive mines.

"Our industrial awakening can not be credited solely to the depreciation of silver. The building up of railroad lines, like the meshes of a vast net, now cover my country, and the introduction of foreign capital, attracted by the favors of a Government which knows how to inspire life into those works and confidence to the outside world, are factors which also have contributed to the flourishing conditions we enjoy to-day.

"Of course the profitable exportation of some products raises their prices for us, but those of a general use, as corn and beans, have suffered no alteration.

"It is evident that there is a tendency in Mexico to advance the cost of living, but as this is accompanied by an increase in wages, and both

evolutions work slowly, there is not the slightest danger of economic troubles; instead, a steady march toward the betterment of the country will take place.

"The previous table, embracing a period of seven years, shows that we are growing very rapidly as an exporting country, and very slowly as an importing one, which confirms the correctness of what I said about the elimination of articles practiced by our industry in competing with the foreign.

"Our foreign commerce is at present divided by countries in the following manner:

FISCAL YEAR 1898–99.

Countries.	Importation (declared value in American gold).	Exportation (declared value in Mexican dollars).
Germany	$5,677,925	$4,020,307
Spain	2,969,936	1,172,948
France	5,929,292	6,252,293
England	9,592,797	14,100,928
Italy	380,889	34,952
Belgium	707,408	2,577,688
United States	24,164,687	103,553,486
Cuba	24,205	5,257,884
Other countries	1,431,055	1,507,651
Total	50,869,194	138,478,137

"The importation of American merchandise during the fiscal year of 1898–99 has been as follows:

[Goods classified according to Mexican custom-house tariff, declared value in American dollars.]

Animal industry	$1,619,706
Agricultural products	5,054,116
Metals and their manufactures	7,335,447
Fabrics	1,131,230
Chemical products, drugs, oils, and paints	846,653
Wines, liquors, fermented and unfermented drinks	272,246
Paper and its manufactures	521,689
Machinery and apparatus	4,826,291
Carriages	934,590
Arms and explosives	961,295
Sundries	661,424
Total	24,164,687

"The exports of merchandise from the United States to Mexico, which in 1888 were about $10,000,000, were in the last fiscal year of about $24,000,000, an increase of 140 per cent.

"Mexico buys from the Americans more than Italy, Russia, or Spain, more than China or Japan, and more than every other country in America, with the exception of Canada. As a consumer of American goods Mexico comes next only to six other countries.

"After the United States, England, Germany, and France hold important places in our commerce. The first with its cotton goods and

its iron; the second with its hardware and iron goods, and the third with its clothes, silks, carpets, and manufactures of hosiery. In our country there is a great number of Germans in the hardware trade, Frenchmen in clothing, and Spaniards in groceries. Americans have hardly begun to establish retail commercial houses, and they prefer to establish agencies, buying their goods from the United States. I think that the branches of iron work, furniture, hats, agricultural, stationery, vehicles, saddlery, sanitary plumbing, shoes, and some other articles would give excellent results for retail selling.

"American trade in Mexico is inferior to the European in that the American merchants want to do business exclusively on a cash basis, while the Europeans are willing to grant five or more months for payment. The custom, already firmly established by long practice among the large Mexican merchants, is to buy at long terms abroad and to sell in the same manner to the tradesman. Banking accommodations, which we now begin to enjoy, perhaps will make easy the adoption of the American system; but such a change is by no means certain, as a long habit of many years is opposed to it.

"I have noted recently that one of the United States Consuls in Russia has recommended the adoption by that Empire of the same policy which I advise as convenient for the North Americans.

"To the present American system is undoubtedly due the fact that the trade in American goods has not had, in Mexico, the rapid development which might have been expected on account of the proximity of the countries.

"The report of the American Consul-General for the year 1899 says: 'As the terms of our American merchants are often very rigid, it is hard to reach an agreement, and much trade which by the exercise of a little tact and judgment could be handled by American merchants goes elsewhere.'

"Mexican merchants are noted for their integrity. The quoted report, about commerce and industries in Mexico, says: 'There are very few concerns here doing business that have not ample capital to carry out all contracts into which they may enter. Failures are very rare, indeed, and when they do occur are carefully investigated by the authorities in the interest of creditors, and any attempts to defraud are severely punished. Book entries are regarded as sacred. All books kept by business houses are known and small stamp taxes paid on them, and thus a sort of surveillance is kept over them by the Government authorities.'

"Transport between Mexico and the United States is very easy. A Philadelphia business man of trade can travel to Mexico City and back again in ten days, on first-rate lines, at a cost of $200. Between Europe and Mexico, besides the New York route, people can travel direct, via the steamer lines, from France, England, and Spain to Vera Cruz and Tampico.

"The interior communications are also very important in Mexico. We have completed four railways that bind us with the United States, through which 35,000 loaded cars come yearly into Mexico; four lines unite the Atlantic Coast to the great cities of the central plateau; several lines penetrate to the southern regions, and another traverses the Tehuantepec Isthmus, together with some others in the Yucatan peninsula.

"Excepting the want of a direct communication from the center of the country to the Pacific Ocean, the binding of that with the Yucatan system, and some other lines of general interest, we are already in a condition to continue vigorously the development of a railroad system subordinate to the great lines.

"The Government during the last years is putting great stress on the formation of good ports and havens on both oceans and the suitable lighting of our shores. We have 68,250 kilometers of telegraph and 2,457 postal stations, both perfectly served. We have also established the system of domestic postal and telegraphic money order, and this institution will soon be extended and made international with this country.

"The American business man can find at the very doors of his country an extensive territory for the employment of his capital. Enterprises for the building of irrigation works, the execution of municipal works that the Mexican cities are desirous of carrying into effect (chiefly in matters of water supply and the establishment of sewerage systems), demand capital. For the establishment of small industries, such as manufactories of soap of all kinds, oils, furniture, doors, etc., there are also opportunities all over Mexico. The cities of Mexico and Guadalajara will have very soon electrical power for sale. For establishments on a large scale it will be easy to utilize the waterfalls, chiefly in the regions forming the descent of the central plateau to the Atlantic and the Pacific.

"Coke is very scarce in the central region of the country, and this has been one of the causes that have prevented the rapid development of industry. But now, thanks to the possibility of transmitting power at a distance, the waterfalls are available everywhere; almost every day a new installation is inaugurated. I believe that the industrial and agricultural future of Mexico depends on the utilization of its waterfalls.

"With extensive zones being properly irrigated and railroads better developed we should be in a position to provide the United States with every kind of tropical fruits that they may need.

"All capital invested in the first of these concerns would be extremely productive, I do not fear to assert, even more than those invested for the same purpose in the Western States of this country. * * *

"The progress of mining industry is clearly proved by the great increase in the mineral production. The development of credit insti-

tutions during the last years, as a consequence of the new banking legislation, more liberal than formerly, is now more pronounced. In 1884 we had only two emission banking houses, whereas now we have eighteen, with a paid-up capital of $42,008,785.

"The standing rate of discount still continues at 8 per cent and upon mortgages at 6 per cent. Everything indicates a tendency to lowering those standards, owing to the greater confidence of the capitalists, and to the increase of capital.

"The growing prosperity of foreign commerce gives the measure of the progress of the country, but what confirms even more the optimistic opinions about the future of Mexico is the examinations of the constant increase in the public revenue, due only to a greater return from the productive sources and not to new or higher taxes. The administration of Mexican finances in the hands of Messrs. ROMERO and LIMANTOUR has been noteworthy for its unspotted integrity, thorough knowledge of the country's economic situation, and by its well understood savings.

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"As in the last years the revenues have been larger than the effective expenses, we have had surpluses which are deposited in our treasury. The surplus last year was over five million dollars.

"A bright testimony of the trust the world bestows upon us to-day has been the conversion of our 5 per cent debt, lately realized in Europe and this country.

"Mexico throws its doors wide open to the men of enterprise, and tenders to them its natural richness under the protection of an unalterable peace, and of a liberal legislation. The foreigner who brings us his capital, talents, and labor is highly welcome to our country."

MINERAL AND AGRICULTURAL WEALTH OF TAMAULIPAS.

The mineral and agricultural conditions existing in the State of Tamaulipas were described as follows before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, by Dr. ABRAHAM DIAZ, representing that section of Mexico at the Congress:

"'La Zona del Cobre,' or 'The Copper Zone,' is the name that can be given to that section of the San Carlos Mountains, district of San Carlos, where metal can be found in more or less abundance all over the territory. At San José, 3 kilometres from San Carlos, a company is working, with all the desired success, mines of copper whose products are of such riches that the business improves daily, so that at present it ranges among the most important mining enterprises in Mexico.

"'La Zona del Plomo,' or 'Lead Zone,' is situated on the same mountains at Real de San Nicolas, the same district of San Carlos. Its fabulous riches in this mineral are traditional. There the fact is stated that in colonial times at a christening the whole party walked from the residence of the parents to the church over a path of silver bars, and

the motives which encouraged me to undertake in difficult times the working of this mine were the following: In 1 mark (8 ounces) of silver from a Buscon real, which was converted into nitrate, 1 ounce of gold was found. The vein from which this metal was taken is one of many which traverse the mine of San Nicolas, property of the mining company of Tamaulipas. To-day, as the government of that federal entity is a deserving imitator and cooperator of that of General PORFIRIO DIAZ; to-day, as under the most liberal and capable administration, the doors are wide open to all enterprises, men of capital, of business, and of labor obtain great advantages from the exploration of this mining branch. It is convenient to consider the ore, which usually produces from 60 to 70 per cent, and even 80 per cent, of lead and from 60 to 80 ounces of silver per ton. The ores contain also sufficient iron to make them desirable for smelting purposes, and ores are also found which render up to 1,200 ounces of silver per ton.

"If what has been said of the mining interests of the State deserves the attention of enterprisers, no less important is what could be said of the greatest riches in the world—agriculture. On this subject be it sufficient to state that there is a most fertile valley of more than 4,500 square miles which extends toward the Gulf of Mexico, going to the Rio Grande, which forms the boundary line with this country, and where the harbor of Tampico stands. It is adaptable in the north for the cultivation of cotton, corn, sugar cane, oranges, grapes, potatoes, etc., and in the central and southern sections for rice, coffee, vanilla, pineapples, bananas, rubber trees, cocoanuts, and all the agriculturist wishes to cultivate grows there to a profit." * * *

RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF JALISCO.

The Chamber of Commerce at Guadalajara was represented at the Philadelphia International Commercial Congress by Mr. CARLOS BASAVE DEL CASTILLO NEGRETE, who, in a paper read before that body on October 28, 1899, described the resources of the State of Jalisco as follows:

"The State of Jalisco has always been the principal grain-growing State in the country; then, its production is the largest. It increases annually, but it has happened lately that it could not supply the orders received. It produces, also, all kinds of articles for exportation and in great variety, as it lies in the zones of all climates, and with the railroad communications with the Pacific coast it will be exploited in all its extension, and its development will be more perceptible. One of its greatest advantages is the abundance of water and the regularity of the crops. The water, which serves for irrigation and which forms waterfalls through all our uneven ground, is a source of riches as a motive power for large factories which will be erected and around which will form important centers of the working population. We can count upon several thousand horsepower which can be obtained at a low

cost, and I am in possession of data for the purpose of making a formal invitation to business men who might be especially interested."

NEW MOTIVE POWER COMPANY.

The "Two Republics" (Mexico) states that on August 25, 1899, the organization of one of the most important companies ever placed on a business footing in the Republic was completed. This company is known as "La Compañía Mexicana de Fuerza Motriz," the capital stock being fully paid up, in conformity with Article 170 of the National Commercial Code. This stock ($10,000,000 Mexican) was subscribed in London, New York, Philadelphia, and Mexico. One of the most encouraging features of the new organization is the large amount of Mexican capital interested, as it is a well-known fact that Mexican capital is extremely cautious.

Some idea of the magnitude of the undertakings of the company may be formed from the fact that it has acquired rights for using the waterfalls throughout eight of the richest States of the Republic. The most important of these are the falls of the Rio Blanco, in the State of Vera Cruz, which are crossed by the Agricola Railway and are accessible to the outside world from many different points. These falls will be developed first, and work will be commenced at once. Over 7,500 horsepower have already been contracted for by manufacturers from the United States and Canada, who will establish plants near the falls. In all, the company has at its disposal something like 150,000 horsepower, all of which will be developed, as the money for this tremendous undertaking can be readily secured.

As will probably be understood, the object of the new company is to establish foreign, principally United States, factories throughout the Republic and furnish power at a minimum cost to local industries. The company enjoys liberal concessions from the Government, and, in view of the importance of the undertaking, is favorably regarded.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Mexican Consulate-General at New York reports the imports from Mexico during the month of September last as follows: Henequén, 7,127 bales; coffee, 4,975 bags; hides, 1,048 bundles; hides, loose, 6,802; ixtle fiber, 1,383 packages; goatskins, 327 bundles; deerskins, 87 bundles; rubber, 76 bales; tobacco, leaf, 430 bales; cigars, 132 boxes; broom root, 1,562 bales; chicle gum, 1,224 bales; lead, 33,870 bars; metals, 415 boxes; ore, 22,267 packages; sarsaparilla, 126 bales; vanilla, 224 boxes; alligator skins, 151; heron plumes, 2 boxes; bones, 440 packages; honey, 160 barrels; cedar, 6,805 logs; mahogany, 992 logs; jalap, 5 sacks; copper, 1,301 bars.

During the same month 33 steamships, carrying 145,395 packages, were cleared, and 24 steamships, bringing 92,282 packages, were entered at the Consulate-General.

The Mexican Consul at San Francisco reports the imports from Mexico during the month of September last through that port to be as follows: Silver ore, $21,873; coined gold, $1,120; gold bullion, $27,522; silver bullion, $204,432; Mexican pesos, $31,915, making a total of $286,862. The amount of the other imports was $16,589. The exports were: American goods, $108,111; foreign goods, $6,082; Mexican pesos (dollars), 169,388.

The Mexican Consulate at New Orleans reports that during the month of September three steamers and three schooners were dispatched by it for Mexican ports, with a tonnage of 3,073 tons, and carrying 76,188 packages, valued at $49,214.

From the Mexican Consul at Nogales, Arizona, it is learned that the exports to the State of Sonora through his Consulate during the month of September last amounted in value to $123,651, upon which duties were paid to the amount of $86,562.47. The imports into the United States of Mexican products through the same Consulate amounted to $224,582.

The Consul of Mexico at San Diego, California, reports that during the month of September, 1899, there were exported through his Consulate to Mexico 5,698 packages, valued at $10,803.25. The imports into the District of San Diego from Mexico, as reported by the Collector of the port, amounted in value to $3,976.

As reported by the Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula, Mississippi, the exports to Mexico during the month of October last were as follows: To Progreso, 489,299 superficial feet of pitch-pine lumber, valued at $4,892.99; to Vera Cruz, 210,043 same, $1,913.44; to Frontera, 102,120 same, $1,021.52; to Campeche, 106,312 same, $1,063.12, making a total of 907,874 superficial feet, valued at $8,891.07.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The new museum of Mexican products, recently established in the City of Mexico, occupies the former temple of the Bethlehemites, on San Andres street, also formerly known as the "Ex-Biblioteca del 5 de Mayo." The shelving and fixtures used in the building were those utilized in the Mexican pavilion at the Universal Exposition of Paris in 1889. They are of varnished cedar, with moldings in the ancient Mexican style. In the center of the former temple will be placed great show cases which were used to display the Mexican objects at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. The purpose of the museum is to keep constantly on exhibition articles of Mexican manufacture and such as have been manufactured abroad of domestic raw material. The idea is, in essence, educative—that is, the raw material of which the articles are made will be exhibited, and the various transformations these may suffer while in the process of conversion into a finished article. In this way the exhibition will have both an agricultural and industrial feature which may be augmented into a commercial, should those

interested therein or the government deem it expedient. "La Semana Mercantil," of the city of Mexico, states that some distinguished people have taken a lively interest in the creation of the new museum, and especially mentions the Ministers of Japan and Belgium.

A mutual exchange of money-order business between the United States and Mexico will go into effect on January 1 next, when money orders may be drawn in Mexico on all important points in the United States, and vice versa. This matter has been under consideration by the postal departments of the two Governments interested for several years, the point in controversy being the rate of conversion into the Mexican money of orders issued in the United States, which point was recently adjusted. There is no doubt that a very large sum of money will be transmitted between the respective countries.

Work on the railroad from San Marcos to Tecolutla is being pressed with great vigor. This line, which will be one of the principal of the country and the only one constructed entirely with Mexican capital, joins the Mexican and Interoceanic railways at the San Marcos station, State of Puebla, communicating thereby with the City of Mexico and Vera Cruz, from which latter port it continues to Tecolutla, an important point on the Gulf of Mexico, lying between Vera Cruz and Tampico. The region traversed by the new line may be said to be still virgin and rich in tropical products. The total extent of the line is 250 kilometers.

Since the appearance of the September number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, in which the subject was mentioned, the city of Tampico has advertised for bids for the construction of an aqueduct that shall supply 8,000 liters of water per minute for public and domestic uses, and also for a complete system of sewerage for the purifying and cleansing of the city, in which latter shall be included the work of paving the streets. The water is to be taken from the River Tamesi, about 20 kilometers from the city, and will require about 10,000 meters of distributing pipe.

Messrs. LIONS BROS. & ADRIEN REYNAUD have recently established near Atlixco, in the State of Puebla, an immense cotton factory. This factory is situated about 3 miles from the little town of Atlixco, with which it is connected by a line of tramways which was opened on the same day that the plant was inaugurated. The buildings are all new, large, and finely ventilated, are lighted by electricity, and equipped with the latest models of machinery, principally French. About 500 persons will be employed there throughout the year.

Señor F. ARMENDAIZ, a capitalist of Monterey, is about to construct a railroad to unite Matamoros, Monterey, and Laredo. It is stated that the plan is a very important one, which will result in opening to commerce several ports on the Gulf of Mexico. One of the most important

features connected with the railroad project is the construction of a sea wall 3 miles in length. Señor ARMENDAIZ is ready to contract for all the machinery and materials the undertaking needs.

As indicative of the prosperity reigning in Mexico, "El Tráfico," a daily newspaper of Guaymas, Sonora, in its issue of November 3 last says that is has received numerous offers of new advertisements from reliable houses in the United States, and adds, "but as we have a plethora of advertisements we have not wished to make contracts for their immediate publication," preferring to await the new year, when important improvements will be made in the journal.

The City Council of León, Guanajuato, has resolved to celebrate the three hundred and twenty-fourth anniversary of the city's foundation with an exposition, having for its principal object the exhibition of the products of the manufacturing industries of its inhabitants; but it will not be confined to these alone, as similar products from other portions of the Republic will also be admitted. Articles for exhibition will be received up to January 17, 1900.

The steamer *Seneca*, of the Ward Line, recently left Vera Cruz for Havana and other Cuban ports, carrying a very important cargo, composed principally of coffee, from Oaxaca and Coatepec; tobacco from the State of Tlascala, and a large quantity of eggs. Shipments of cattle from the Republic to Cuba continue on a vast scale, transport being effected by immense boats specially equipped for the purpose.

A number of United States citizens residing in Pasadena, California, have formed a company with a capital of $100,000, divided into shares of $100 each, to build a railroad from the Los Pintos mine, in the District of Altar, Sonora, to a point on the Bay of San Jorte. The articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State in the Territory of Arizona. The railroad will be 13 miles in length.

On October 31, 1899, the United States Patent Office issued letters patent to the following citizens of Mexico: ANTOINE CHAUMEIL, of Caborca, for an apparatus for concentrating dry placer material; GEORGE DIAZ, of Mexico City, for a grinding machine; MANUEL A. TORRE, of Mérida, for a machine for cleaning vegetable fibers; ROBERT H. JEFFREY, of Pinos Altos, for an ore feeder.

The amount of pulque consumed in the capital of Mexico may be estimated from the fact that on November 1, 1899, the receipts of this article were as follows: By the Hidalgo Railroad, 820 half barrels; by the Mexican, 589 half barrels, and by the Interoceanic, 275 half barrels, making a total of 883 barrels, containing 441,500 liters, or 100,220 gallons in one day.

Several foreign capitalists, the majority being British subjects, have recently visited the southern part of the State of Vera Cruz, where very

fertile lands abound, for the purpose of purchasing ground and laying out sugar-cane plantations. In some instances machinery has been ordered from abroad for the new plantations.

The first section of the railroad from Chihuahua to the Pacific, running from the former city to San Andres, has been opened to public service. It is expected that by the end of the year the road will be running as far as Ciudad de Guerrero, a distance of 200 kilometers.

Several of the more important mines of the District of Parral, State of Chihuahua, are to be provided with electric light and power. The machinery necessary to carry out these improvements has been ordered from the United States.

The opening of the Mexican Medical Congress, the sessions of which are to be held in the city of Chihuahua, is postponed to the second fortnight of October, 1900.

The Kansas City Commercial Club proposes to hold a big industrial exposition next fall, inviting delegates from every large Mexican city to be present.

Quite a number of sugar plantations in the tropical States of Mexico are installing plants of machinery with electric motive power.

NICARAGUA.

RESOURCES AND PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY—THE FUTURE ROUTE OF THE INTEROCEANIC CANAL.

The address made by Señor Don Luis F. Corea, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua in the United States, before the International Commercial Congress of Philadelphia during the Pan-American session, which was held on October 28, was confined principally to the resources and progress of his country, which is destined to become the center of universal trade when the interoceanic canal shall be opened to its territory.

The Minister said, in part:

"The building of the maritime canal will create a commercial revolution, and Central America will become a great, prosperous center of trade. Through her channel will come the ships of Europe and of the United States en route to the western coast of North and South America and the Orient; and the ships of western North and South America laden with freight for the United States and Europe. Immigration will be fostered; fertile fields and rich mines will be developed; new manufactories will spring up; public improvement will find inspiration with the growth of trade, and like magic Central America will assume

a commercial importance rivaling that of the other countries of the Old and New Worlds.

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"Nicaragua likewise is showing great progress in her system of transportation and telegraphic and telephonic communications. The interior has a good outlet to either seaboard, and the coffee planter or stock raiser has little difficulty in sending his products to all of the ports of the Atlantic and Pacific. Rates of transportation and freights are very cheap. One can travel from Greytown to Corinto (that is, from ocean to ocean) quickly by steam, and for less than $15 gold, and through the principal cities of the interior for a small amount. Electric wires form a network over the entire State, and telegraph rates are about one-half, gold, of what they are in the United States, while the operation of the long-distance telephone is general and entirely satisfactory. The rivers and lakes are all navigable and the steamboat service is efficient. Nicaragua belongs to the great International Postal Union and facilities for transmitting mail are exceedingly good, and free delivery is reaching out to the rural districts.

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"Nicaragua is rich in mineral as well as agricultural resources. The gold mines are numerous and the precious metal is mined with large profits. Copper and opal are also plentiful, though Honduras, the neighborhood on the north, is especially noted for her fine opals. The agricultural products include coffee, corn, beans, wheat, rice, sugar, cotton, tobacco, and garden vegetables, while tropical fruits are everywhere abundant. The quality of tobacco is fine and in some zones rivals that of Havana. The forests are dense with fine hard wood, which is quite an item of export, and they supply the United States with a very great per cent of her mahogany.

"The fertile plains are also suitable for stock raising and cattle are marketed extensively in Central America, and at this time are being shipped by thousands to Cuba.

"Agricultural development calls for modern machinery and the newest inventions. The people are appreciative of their necessities and are ready purchasers of that which they have not the facilities to produce, and in this connection it should be said there is in the country a sugar manufactory which has not a superior on the Isthmus. Manufactories are not so numerous as is desired, but there is a standing invitation to foreign capital to come and supply the lack.

"According to statistical reports, Nicaragua takes imports from England to the amount of $1,500,000, from Germany $1,000,000, while from the United States but $500,000 annually. At the same time her exports to the United States are valued at $1,000,000, to England perhaps $750,000, and to Germany nearly $2,250,000.

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The maximum temperature in Nicaragua is in September, and is about 89.5 degrees; the minimum in January and November being 70

or 71. The average for the year is from 75 to 79 degrees. These figures are from meteorological reports of observations at San Juan del Sur. In more elevated regions on the Pacific the thermometer may fall as low as 65 degrees, and it never goes higher than 90 degrees. Even on the hottest days in all of the elevated regions no sense of oppression or exhaustion is felt. Hail, snow, and frost are unknown, while hurricanes and tornadoes are perfect strangers. * * *

"The salubrity of the climate is unrivaled. By simply giving ordinary attention to hygienic laws a person may enjoy as perfect health as in any other part of the world. A naval officer who once commanded a ship of war, stationed for five months on the coast of Nicaragua, reported that in all of his large crew he lost not a single man and had no more than four men sick at any one time.

"Admiral WALKER, the president of the Isthmian Canal Commission, reports that of a force of some 500 men engaged for many months in surveying the swamps to select a site for the canal, not one died, and there was not as much sickness from malarial or other fevers as might have been experienced in the lowlands of Virginia. Nicaragua never is troubled with yellow fever; and other fevers of a low order, peculiar to the country, yield readily to treatment."

NEW WARSHIP.

The "Nouveau Monde" of October 7, 1899, announces that the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has purchased a new ship of war, which has been baptized *Osorno*.

The same authority says also that recently President ZELAYA had an interview with the President of Honduras, Mr. SIERRA, and that there is reason to consider it as a further proof of the friendly relations which already unite the two contiguous States.

PARAGUAY.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Mr. CARLOS R. SANTOS, representing the Republic of Paraguay at the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, spoke with enthusiasm before that body of the great natural advantages enjoyed by his native land in the matter of agricultural products, fertility of the soil, salubrity of the climate, and admirable topographical position, saying, in part:

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"Paraguay has, in reality, very little cause for envying countries better endowed with the gifts of nature. The admirable fertility of its soil makes it possible to raise all the products of temperate and tropical zones, and the country has a rich variety of natural vegetable products, such as medicinal and textile plants, dyestuffs, oleaginous, and tanning

materials. Among the minerals found are copper, iron, manganese, sulphate of lime, rock crystal, lime, marble, feldspar, etc.

"The immense forests of the country contain precious woods, ranging from the lightest and most delicate to the heaviest kinds, which wear like iron and are utilized for innumerable purposes. On its extensive, cheap, and rich plains cattle raising will yield a profit of 25 to 30 per cent annually.

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"Our principal products and articles suitable for commerce are corn—two crops per annum yield 5,000 pounds per 10,000 square yards. Mandioca (*Manihot utilissima*), a plant belonging to the family of *Euphorbiaceæ*, produces tubers from which starch, pure and of excellent quality, is extracted.

"Tobacco produces leaves which when properly cured are equal to the best produced in other countries. Paraguayan tobacco obtained prizes at various European expositions, among others the exposition of 1855 in Paris, of 1889 in Antwerp, and in Barcelona, at which it received a gold medal.

"The Banco Agricola del Paraguay, founded to aid the agricultural industry, has recently erected several driers where the tobacco is cured after the Cuban system, and part of the first crop has been exported, principally to Germany.

"Yerba maté, Paraguayan tea (*ilex paraguensis*), made from the leaves of a shrub which are pulverized or simply cured as other tea, affords a drink known by the name of 'Yerba maté' all through South America, where the people drinking it number over 20,000,000.

"Until a few years ago it was totally unknown in Europe, but to-day it is prescribed by physicians in Germany in certain cases of illness; it is not, however, as a remedy that it has acquired its importance, but as a beverage to replace coffee, tea, and liquors. The low price and not only hygienic but also nutritious and invigorating properties recommend it especially to laborers. It has always been recommended for these properties by scientific journals and notabilities, and that its general use in Europe and the United States depend solely on its becoming more widely known is a fact beyond doubt.

"The forests in which yerba maté grows wild are called 'yerbales,' and comprise immense areas in the northern and eastern parts of the Republic, where on an average 9,000,000 kilograms per annum are produced; of these one-half is exported and the other half consumed in the Republic.

"The production can, however, easily be tripled when the projected railway shall be built in order to furnish suitable and necessary transportation facilities to those parts of the country.

The soil and climate of Paraguay are splendidly adapted to the cultivation of coffee, as well as to the establishment of vineyards, which yield 30 hectoliters of wine per hectare.

"Sugar cane yields 30 tons per hectare.

"White and yellowish cotton yields on an average 7 pounds per plant.

"Rice is grown in excellent places for its cultivation, and is also found in some parts growing wild on the banks of creeks and rivers, and usually on the sides of gulches. Rice can be made to yield 65,000 pounds per *cuadra*, a *cuadra* being equal to 10,000 square yards.

"Ramie grows with extraordinary vigor, and if the difficulty of cleaning it could be overcome by having suitable machinery it would become an important article of export.

"Alfalfa yields six crops per annum.

"Oleaginous products, such as castor beans, peanuts, and cocoanuts, are beginning to be exported to Europe.

"All kinds of vegetables mature two months earlier than in the neighboring countries, to which they are exported. Fruits, such as bananas, melons, peaches, pineapples, tomatoes, lemons, and oranges, are also shipped to the Argentine Republic and Uruguay in considerable quantities.

"Of oranges alone the exports for the present year have amounted to $100,000 in round figures.

"We are exporting at present—

"To the Argentine Republic and Uruguay, hard wood in logs, planks, and sleepers, salted and raw hides, yerba maté, tobacco, tobacco extract, essence of orange leaves, sweets, liquors, fruits, garden produce, and ornamental plants.

"To the Brazilian State of Matto Grosso, with which communication is had by the Paraguay River: Beer, cocoa and peanut oil, starch, candles, soap, matches, sweets, biscuits, vermicelli, sirups, and shoes.

"The exports to Europe, especially to Germany and England, are tobacco and hides, which are much in demand owing to their good qualities, hardwoods, quebracho extract for tanning, cocoanuts, orange essence, hair and other animal products.

"As one salting establishment has been built recently and others projected, the Paraguayan salteries will soon be able to occupy a prominent place and compete advantageously with the Argentine salteries in the exportation of dried meats to the markets of Cuba and Brazil owing to low freight rates and the cheapness of the cattle, which are ready to slaughter two months earlier in our country on account of the advanced season.

"Our imports consist of the following manufactured articles, received mainly from Germany and England: Silk, woolen, linen, and cotton goods, burlap, china, earthenware, general hardware, canned goods, wine, oil, spirituous liquors, beer, agricultural machinery and implements.

"The banks which facilitate business transactions are Banco Mercantil del Paraguay, Banco de los Rios y Compania."

NATIVE TEXTILE PLANTS.

Writing from Asunción to the Department of State at Washington, under date of August 15, 1899, Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul, describes three species of textile plants grown in Paraguay, namely, cotton, *sauce verde*, and *caraguatá*, the last two being fibrous plants whose use and designation is purely local.

Cotton grows throughout the entire year, though after the first crop is gathered the plant is cut off at the base so that new shoots may spring from the roots and in turn come into bearing. After the second year the fiber becomes coarser, so that in order to retain a fine grade it is necessary to plow up the ground and start a new crop from the seed. The Government is giving every encouragement to this industry, and according to the agricultural authorities of the Republic there are three kinds of cotton produced, generically known as *Gossypium herbaceum*, *G. vitafolium*, and *G. arboreum*, also a red cotton (*Guarani mandypyta*), from which coarse goods, such as brown ponchos, etc., are manufactured.

"Sauceverde" is grown to a considerable extent in damp soils, and when gathered is nearly black, but, after passing through certain processes, the fiber becomes white and glossy and is very strong. Mr. RUFFIN is of the opinion that this plant might be employed in the manufacture of imitation silk goods. From the description furnished it would appear that the plant is a species of ramie, known by the local name quoted.

"Caraguatá" is another fibrous plant, having a more prolific growth than the sauceverde, and belonging to the family of *Bromiliceæ*, a kindred species to the pineapple. It grows better in a wild than in a cultivated state, and as its leaves have many thorns it is very difficult to gather. Without special machinery it is almost impossible to free the fiber from impurities, but it well repays the trouble taken, being used by the natives for rope making, and for this purpose is considered superior to jute. During the war between Brazil and Paraguay its effectiveness for the manufacture of paper was discovered, and its fruit, with the addition of sugar, produces a brandy having a very agreeable flavor. In order that the plant may reproduce itself, it is cut off just above the roots, thus promoting the growth of new stalks.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPITALISTS.

The United States Consul at Asunción has recently sent to the Department of State at Washington a report on the possibilities of outside investments in Paraguay. A new city hall and a new market are about to be erected, which will give openings for dealers in construction materials. He also states that a large pawnshop is needed in Asunción, and that an American bank which should build houses, export hides and skins, and handle the native oranges could do a good

business. The Paraguayan orange is greatly in demand in countries to the south of Paraguay, and could, in the opinion of the Consul, be made popular in the North. They should, however, be packed as carefully as the Florida product. Considering the large demand for cotton goods in the Republic, the establishment of a cotton factory would also prove remunerative.

A FIELD FOR EMIGRATION.

"Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register," of London, for October last, contains an article on "Paraguay as a field for emigration," by a correspondent of the "Field," signing himself "J. D. L." The writer states that there are few countries which offer so many advantages of a certain kind to the emigrant of small capital, some of which advantages are set forth as follows:

"The Paraguayan Government has established certain settlements or colonies in which land is granted to settlers on extremely favorable terms. For the sake of illustration I will take the Colonia Nacional, formerly known as the Gonzalez Colony, with which I am personally acquainted, having lived on it for two years. This settlement is of considerable extent, is composed of very fertile land, and is situated on a line of railway, there being a station within the limits of the colony. The land is partly virgin forest, full of valuable timber, and partly open pasture or camp land, alternating in such a way as to be especially convenient to the colonist, who is thus able to secure forest land (the best for cultivation) at the same time that he has a free run of pasture land for his cattle.

"The Government gives a free passage from Asunción (in some cases even from Buenos Ayres or Montevideo) for the colonist and his family, also for his luggage. Arrived at the colony, his luggage is conveyed free to the lot which may be given to him, or which he may buy from an old settler. Strictly speaking, the land is not bought, as the Government had not granted titles at the time spoken of, the necessary period of five years not having elapsed since the foundation of the colony; but the settler can transfer his rights to a new comer, and as he has generally effected considerable improvements on his lot, clearing the heavy timber, building a shanty, etc., many new arrivals prefer to buy out an old settler rather than take up a lot of virgin land, although this can be had practically for nothing.

"Let us suppose that the newcomer has decided to select a lot of virgin land. The management of the colony supply him with tools and appliances, also with rations for six months, all of which he undertakes to repay as soon as his means will permit. His first occupation after running up a rude shelter (no substantial erections are required in this climate) is the clearing of the primeval forest, a herculean task, which not everyone can accomplish. Many of the trees are 6 feet or more in diameter; these must all be felled with the ax. After the

trees have been felled they are allowed to lie for some weeks for the leaves and twigs to dry so far as to allow a preliminary burning to be made. Fire is then applied to the fallen débris and a considerable portion is thus consumed, some of the fallen trunks burning spontaneously without any further attention. But the greater part of the work remains to be done. Most of the trunks, especially the giant ones, will not burn, even though fire be applied to them, unless they are first cut into small pieces. The cutting up and logging together of these fallen trunks is a greater labor than the felling of the forest. After this task has been accomplished the ground is ready for sowing corn or planting mandioca, which will form the staff of life for the settler during the first year. The stumps still remain in the ground. On this account the plow can not be used; all work must be done with the hoe."

The correspondent next gives an account of his own experiences in the Colonia Nacional, where he bought a small holding for a trifle:

"It consisted of some 90 acres, of which about 6 acres were under cultivation and several acres more had been felled and were ready for the hoe. There were about 3 acres in sugar cane, one-half an acre in mandioca, and 1½ acres in maize. There were also a large number of fruit trees—oranges (not yet in bearing), bananas, peaches, and others. The holding was partly fenced and there was adjoining it a large expanse of open camp or pasturage stretching for many miles, which was a free run for cattle. It was about 3 miles from a railway station by a fairly good road. The price paid for the holding was about £15 in English money, and this included a cow and a calf, a mare and a foal, and a few utensils. It must be remembered that the holder had no title, but simply transferred his rights, the buyer being able to obtain a title after a certain length of time and on fulfilling certain conditions as to cultivation, etc.

" * * * For a hard-working man, who has a family who can assist him and so render him independent of outside labor, the prospects are decidedly encouraging. In fact, I know of no country where such a family can make themselves a comfortable home in so short a time and on so small a capital as in Paraguay, but they must be prepared to find certain features widely different from what they have been accustomed to in England. As a rule, they will find little of the society of their own countrymen, and they will have to a certain extent to adapt their mode of life to that prevailing in the country. * * * Living is extremely cheap. The best wheat can be obtained for 1 to 1½ pence per pound. Paraguay tea (yerba maté) costs about 3 pence per pound, and if bought by the *arroba*, of 25 pounds, is much cheaper. Bread is dearer than in England, but mandioca, which is an excellent substitute and preferred to bread by many settlers (myself included), can be bought during the season for 3 to 6 pence per arroba of 25 pounds. Tobacco (not of the best quality) costs from 3 pence per

pound upward. Oranges in the country districts are a mere drug in the market. During the season forty can be bought for 1 penny. They are of excellent quality. Indeed I have never seen a country where the orange flourishes as it does in Paraguay. The orange trees grow wild in the woods in great abundance. It is indeed the commonest forest tree; but the wild oranges are not edible, being too bitter. Bananas cost from 3 to 6 pence per large bunch. Eggs generally sell from 3 to 5 pence per dozen. Milch cows can be bought for from 30 shillings to £2. A good saddle horse costs from £2 to £3; mares are cheaper. Labor is also very cheap; 15 shillings per month is reckoned good pay for a farm laborer, and his board costs very little. These prices refer to the country districts. In Asunción living is somewhat dearer.

"The climate of Paraguay is good; very pleasant in winter and not too warm in summer to permit white men to perform hard labor in the open air. In the winter time there are sometimes slight frosts in the early morning, but seldom sufficient to kill the most delicate plants. I consider Paraguay better suited to the small than to the large capitalists, although the latter may find lucrative employment in cattle farming. * * * The Government does not encourage the immigration of single men, it being found that they are not so settled in their habits as their married brethren. They are seldom contented when settled on the land, but soon get tired of the monotony of the life, and are apt to leave without paying the advances the Government may have made to them."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The projected new tariff has been presented to the Chamber. The import duties have been generally increased: instead of the present duty of 25 per cent, to which there is added a further duty of 5 and 1 per cent gold and 4 and 3 per cent paper, the standard of 25 per cent will be adopted. A number of home industries are to receive increased protection. The practice of accepting notes of from two to four months from responsible parties in payment of duties will be abandoned.

A new line of packets has recently been established to run between Montevideo, Buenos Ayres, the Upper Paraná, and the Upper Paraguay as far as Corumbá, in opposition to the old line. The name of the company is "Navegación Fluvial á Vapor, Empresas Unidas," and possesses fine and swift vessels, both steam and sailing.

The Budget for 1900 shows the estimates of revenues to be $1,152,254.51 gold, and expenditures $8,065,781.88 paper. The premium on gold is 700.

PERU.

THE MINING INDUSTRY IN ITS RELATION TO TRADE.

The mines of Peru have, since the days of the Spanish conquest, been an object of great interest to the civilized world, therefore the Peruvian delegate to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, Mr. JUAN ANTONIO LOREDO, was assured of earnest attention in addressing the session on that topic. In treating of the relations existing between the mining industry and the development of commercial relations, Mr. LOREDO said:

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"The mining industry is one of those which most easily lend themselves to increase our commercial relations. Indeed, our exportation is mainly constituted of silver, copper, lead ores and metallurgical products, whose value is about 10,000,000 soles, of which only a very small portion comes to this country and almost the whole goes to European countries.

"As metallurgy here is very well advanced, and as there are in this country great houses which deal in minerals, it would be an easy thing and accomplished at very little expense to establish agencies at the principal centers of the trade in Peru for the purchase of exportable ores. These purchases being made according to assays, under well-regulated tariffs and on cash payment, it is certain that the agencies could acquire at very convenient prices almost the total amount of exportable ores, as the miners would prefer to sell at once instead of receiving some advance, as it is done at present. These agencies for buying ores and other products could at the same time introduce to the knowledge of the miners and the general people many American goods.

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"Peru is undoubtedly a country gifted with large and varied mineral wealth, and therefore it offers a vast field for the establishment and development of great mining enterprises, which would give lucrative employment to large capitals. Besides the exploitation on a large scale of gold, silver, and copper mines, borates and petroleum deposits, etc., works can be established with assured good success for the extraction of metals from the ores.

"The exportation of the ores causes very high expenses, principally for land and sea freight, so that, taking the amount annually exported at 50,000 tons, at an average cost of exportation amounting to 40 soles per ton, the result is that there is expended annually 2,000,000 soles, a sum which would be a great increase over the profits which those smelters (which might be established to handle the ore instead of exporting it) would pay, the products being always shipped to these markets.

"In addition to the ores which could be exported, there is on hand at all the mines large quantities of ore, whose percentage of metal would not pay the heavy charges of exportation, and consequently they remain abandoned, and can be acquired for the cost of registration merely, or at very low figures. From the above statements one sees the suitability of establishing concentrating plants, either mechanical or on the fusion system, to recover the metals. This could be done in many mineral districts of Peru, for instance, Yauli, Cerro de Pasco, etc. This last place, famous for the quantity of silver which it has produced, and will produce in the future, likewise contains rich copper mines, which have only begun to be worked within the past year. There was exported, between July 1, 1898, and June 30, 1899, from Cerro de Pasco and Yauli, 17,000 tons of copper ore and mattes, which contain at least 5,100 tons of copper, since no ores below 30 per cent in copper can be exported with profit. Taking this at an average price of £60 gives £306,000 (or 306,000 soles), not taking into account the value of gold and silver contained in the mattes and ores. It is estimated that the deposit of Cerro de Pasco contains 15,000,000 tons of ore, which, taken at an average of 20 per cent, represents 3,000,000 tons of metallic copper, so it can be seen that a great many enterprises will be initiated for working and smelting copper. It is to be noted that only rich ores are now exported (30 per cent copper, or more), those called poor, i. e., containing less than 30 per cent, remaining to be treated on the spot in some future time.

"In respect to gold mines, there is no locality in Peru which does not offer some rich deposits of gold; it is found in all the three regions of the country, the Costa, Sierra, and especially in what we call the Montaña, where great quantities of gold have been taken out in former times.

"It may seem strange that a country so rich in mines of gold, silver, and copper does not, however, figure to-day among the main producers of those metals; but this is easily explained by the lack of capital to push the mineral industries, and the absence of a cooperative spirit and practical capacity to overcome the natural obstacles which are everywhere to be encountered. As a result, these grand resources of wealth yet remain idle, but when the day comes that capital is invested with determined efforts, and on a great scale, to mine and treat the ores as has been done in this country, then enormous returns will be obtained.

"If to the above conditions is added the facility with which mines can be obtained in Peru, the ample liberty which one enjoys in working them, the healthy climate, the vast resources which all the mineral regions afford, as there is motive power (numerous waterfalls), fuel, laborers, etc., the obliging disposition of the Peruvians, and the consideration shown to foreigners, surely none should fear to establish themselves in our mining districts, for they can rest assured that with

capital and practical experience they will obtain magnificent profits, and, moreover, enjoy the security afforded by all civilized countries.

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"What has been said about ores can also be applied to many other export products, such as sugar, cotton, wool, coffee, hides, etc., which also constitute one of the simplest means to foster trade between both countries; but that is not enough, something else is necessary, and that is, in the first place, rapidity and economy in transportation, which can be obtained by establishing regular steamship lines, for which end the prompt realization of the inter-oceanic canal is of the utmost importance; and also the introduction of capital, which would give impulse to the industries. All those elements would bring about the sending of our products to these markets, receiving in exchange American manufactures. This has been the system followed by English and German merchants, with whom we trade at present."

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COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. JORGE BASADRE, in his address to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia on October 28, 1899 (Pan-American Day), presented some interesting data concerning the agricultural possibilities of Peru, from which country he was a delegate to the Congress. This Republic has always been regarded as a mining country, to the detriment of other industries, but according to the information furnished by Mr. BASADRE—

"The coast produces sugar, cotton, rice, and some other articles, which constitute more than 50 per cent of our general exportation.

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"Cotton is a native plant on the coast, and some varieties—as, for instance, 'rough Peruvian'—obtain extra prices in the market. Cotton yields two crops a year, and the plant may last for thirty years, each acre producing about 320 pounds of clean cotton and 520 pounds of seed.

"Besides white cotton there are also the gray, yellow, red, and violet varieties, which are highly appreciated.

"Cane-sugar growing is the principal industry on the coast. Twenty millions of dollars are invested in this industry, obtaining an interest of 8 per cent per year.

"In all the country, and especially on the coast, there is a great lack of population, and to it must be attributed the very slow progress of our agriculture.

"From 1849 to 1874 something like 87,000 Chinese coolies were introduced, and one-third of them still remain in the country. Several attempts have been made to introduce immigrants of other nations, but as yet the Government has not succeeded in creating a constant and important current. Immigrants are always welcomed to the coun-

try, and even those belonging to the pauper class may expect a cordial reception, provided they dedicate themselves to energetic work.

"The coast is not adapted to agriculture only; great deposits of petroleum, covering an area of 16,000 square miles, exist there. Only 50,000 acres of oil land have been appropriated, and only a few of the claims are being worked. The oil is found at a depth of from 200 to 400 feet, and the wells produce from 30 to 400 barrels of petroleum per day.

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"Less than 1 per cent of the useful surface of the coast region is to-day cultivated, and in the old times, before the Spaniards' visit to the country, great tracts of land were irrigated by means of skillfully built canals.

"As at the coast rains are very scarce, agriculture has to depend exclusively on irrigation. In fact, in the southern part of the coast it never rains, and in the north a good rainfall occurs only every seven or ten years, which, falling on a wonderfully fertile soil, gives rise during the first years to magnificent crops, which gradually decline until a new rainfall appears.

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"In the northern part of the country, in the Department of Puira, there are two and one-half millions of acres of land which can be irrigated at a cost of $2 per acre, increasing immediately one-hundred fold their value.

"Great facilities are given to enterprising people connected with irrigation schemes, provided they mean business and represent real and effective capital.

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"Commerce with the United States, which, although very small at present, is rapidly increasing, is mainly derived from the coast, and represents one-tenth of the general commerce of the country.

"In 1898, 103,718 metric tons of sugar, 6,712 tons of cotton, and 4,295 tons of rice were exported, and this country received only 14 per cent of the sugar, 9 per cent of the cotton, nothing of our rice, and small quantities of other commodities."

DEMAND FOR CATALOGUES OF ELECTRIC APPARATUS.

The French Minister at Lima recently informed his Government that several French electrical engineers and mechanics resident in Peru had solicited the aid of the legation for the purpose of obtaining catalogues relative to the articles in their special line of business. These requests refer principally to lighting materials, wires, flexible cords, sockets, lamps, generators for the transmission of electric power, telegraphic and telephonic apparatus, etc.

The same official writes that there exists in Lima a demand for catalogues of wood-working machinery.

EXPLOITATION OF PETROLEUM.

The petroleum wells of Peru are reported to be, so far as is yet known, the most promising of the recently exploited sources of supply in the western half of the globe. Development has, however, been retarded by lack of capital, and the production is not yet sufficient to supply home requirements.

A prospector from the United States, now engaged in drilling petroleum wells in that Republic, writes to a correspondent in West Virginia that they are very productive, but exceedingly deep, but with the employment of suitable machinery they can be made important factors in the petroleum business of the world. Expert operators from the United States receive very high salaries, but native labor is proportionately cheap.

THE CERRO DE PASCO MINES AND RAILWAY.

The interest centering in the construction of the Oroya and Cerro de Pasco Railway, for which bids have been asked by the Peruvian Government, renders the history of the celebrated Cerro de Pasco silver mines a matter of importance, for the road in question is to be opened up principally with the object of placing the products of the mines on the seacoast and ultimately upon the world's markets in even greater abundance than heretofore.

These mines are located 14,300 feet above sea-level, in the vicinity of a city of the same name, about 80 miles from Oroya, the present terminus of the railroad. The population of the district is wholly devoted to mining, and varies in numbers between 10,000 and 12,000, rarely exceeding the latter figure. This, however, is remarkable, considering the isolated character of the place. The climate at this elevation is somewhat cold, but comparatively healthy; the rainy season, from November to April, being the least agreeable. The mineral formation is somewhat of an anomaly and is scarcely susceptible of geological description. Silver and copper exist in great abundance; gold and coal are plentiful, and iron, plumbago, cobalt, and other minerals are found, but have not as yet been properly exploited. Not until 1898 has copper been considered of sufficient value for shipment from the mines, but the experiments made have been very successful and a continuous output is assured, as it has recently been a better paying product than silver. It is silver, however, that is the main object of exploitation, though the methods employed are of a very primitive character by reason of the great difficulties in the way of rapid and easy communication with the coast.

In the year 1630, an Indian shepherd, upon removing the stones from around a fire, discovered that, owing to the heat, they had become covered by threads of some bright substance which appeared to form part of their composition. A miner in the neighboring village, upon being

told the circumstance, recognized the existence of silver, and at once began the search for more. The results were so satisfactory that before the end of a year there were not only a number of mines producing the precious metal, but the village of Cerro de Pasco, populated by the miners and their families, had sprung into existence. These famous mines, during the two hundred and sixty-nine intervening years, have been worked regularly, the annual output averaging 1,600,000 ounces pure silver. The quantity of ores containing silver taken from these mines is estimated by the present proprietors at 30,000,000 tons. Throughout this period the only means of transporting the ores to the smelting works (a distance of from 3 to 6 miles) has been by pack animals, and the process of mining and reducing the ores is substantially that adopted in 1630.

In 1814 a number of high-pressure engines for pumping and hoisting purposes were brought from Cornwall, England, to Cerro de Pasco, at great expense, by Capt. RICHARD TREVERICK, accompanied by a number of mechanics and engineers, who were to set up and run the machinery. Although the operations of these engines were highly satisfactory, the difficulties which arose in keeping them in repair gradually compelled the proprietors to return to the original processes. In 1870 a contract was made with Messrs. WYMAN & HARRISON to erect an extensive plant of modern machinery for the use of the Cerro de Pasco miners. This machinery was shipped from Cornwall in November of that year, but before it could be put into use the contractors failed and nothing could be accomplished with it. Finally, in 1877, a contract was entered into with HENRY MEIGGS, the celebrated United States engineer, by which he bound himself to build a railway to Cerro de Pasco, and in addition a drainage tunnel below the mines. This tunnel was commenced, but after completing about 100 feet Mr. MEIGGS died, before any practical work was accomplished on the railway. Since then the project has been revived many times, but not until the present year have any tangible steps been taken. On May 5, 1899, the Peruvian Government invited bids for the railway between Oroya and Cerro de Pasco, and that of Mr. B. THORNDIKE, an English engineer, was accepted. (See August BULLETIN.) Under date of August 1, 1899, Mr. THORNDIKE informs the public that he has been perfecting the plans, profiles, etc., of the railway, and in obtaining other necessary documents which will enable him to enlist the cooperation of capitalists.

INTERNAL CONDITIONS.

The Belgian Consular Reports for 1899 contain an exhaustive account of the internal affairs of the Peruvian Republic, furnished by Mr. C. RENOZ, Consul of Belgium at Lima, under date of October 27, 1898. This official writes, concerning the stamp laws of Peru, that there are two kinds of stamps employed, stamped paper (*papel sellado*) and adhesive stamps. These are issued every two years, and may be used

only during the two years for which they are printed. Stamped paper is used solely for official or judicial acts and adhesive stamps are for commercial transactions. Of the latter there are five denominations, 5 sols, 1 sol, 25 centavos, 10 centavos, and 2 centavos. The stamp-tax law decrees that each copy of a shipping manifest, whether of steam or sailing vessel coming from abroad and without fixed itinerary, shall bear a 5-sol stamp. For vessels having a fixed itinerary and making schedules with several Peruvian ports, this tax is reduced to 2 sols, and for ships in ballast it is further reduced to 1 sol. Letters of exchange, drawn on foreign banks, must bear the necessary stamps, which may be affixed either on acceptance, first indorsement in the country, or when paid. Letters of credit are exempted from the stamp tax. Bank checks bear only a 2-cent stamp, no matter what sum is represented. Every infraction of the law is punished by a fine four times the value of the omission, and is applicable both to the giver and receiver of the document in question, the State thus receiving the ordinary tax eightfold.

The Consul gives a very graphic description of the efforts of the Government toward the establishment of a fixed monetary system, and quotes the laws of December 11 and 29, 1897, by which the customs duties are made payable in pounds sterling, the rate of exchange being fixed at 10 sols to the pound.

Telegraphic communication in the Republic is gradually being extended, there being at present 3,000 kilometers in operation, and reports for the years 1896 and 1897 show an increase in receipts and a decrease in expenses for the lines. Consul RENOZ considers that the cause of lack of greater development in this branch of internal improvement may be assigned to the high tariff, every dispatch of ten words costing 40 centavos, including address and signature, and each word over this number costing 4 centavos additional. This is without regard to the destination of the message. Frequent interruptions in the service also have a bad influence on the receipts. The posts, which are of wood, rot and fall, and the galvanized iron wires, especially on the coasts, become oxidized rapidly and break, thus causing an intermission in receipts and continual expense. In order to maintain a stable service it would be necessary to have iron posts and wires of phosphor bronze.

The Peruvian postal tariff has been increased since January 1, 1898, for letters having foreign destinations. According to statistics, the general postal movement in 1896 was 7,174,857 pieces, and in 1897 12,760,771 pieces, or an increase of nearly 78 per cent for the latter year.

Among the means of communication whose development is going forward, the central or Pichis road should be mentioned. The imperative necessity of establishing a roadway between the capital and the lower region of the Montaña led the Peruvian Government a few years since to open up a route to a navigable point on one of the principal

branches of the Amazon. There was at that time a road leaving Oroya which, passing Tarma and traversing the entire valley of the Chanchamayo, led to San Luis de Shuaro. It was evidently proper to profit by what already existed, but the principal difficulty was in choosing a river, navigable throughout all seasons, which would lead to the mouth of the Amazon. Information on this point was varied. The Government engineers recommended the Pichis; others, who had also made explorations in this labyrinth of water courses, contended that there were other rivers, among them the Mayro, much better suited for the realization of the project.

Finally, after a practical demonstration of the navigability of the Pichis by a small steamer which ascended the current from Iquitos as far as the above-mentioned river, the Pichis route was selected and the work commenced. Already 145 kilometers in the direction of the stream have been finished, and it is calculated that only about 30 more remain to be finished before reaching the terminus of the road at Puerto Bermudez, whence later small steamers will make the service between that port and Iquitos. The Pichis empties into the Pachitea, and the last named into the Ucayuli, which is called the Amazon after its junction with the Marañon. With the completion of the Pichis road the journey between the two oceans will be made in the following manner: From Callao to Oroya, by rail, 220 kilometers; from Oroya to Puerto Bermudez, on horseback, about 300 kilometers; from Puerto Bermudez to Iquitos, by steamer, approximately 1,500 kilometers, and from Iquitos to the mouth of the Amazon, 3,500 kilometers; a total of 5,520 kilometers.

It is estimated that the trip from Lima to Iquitos can then be made in about ten days and even less, which would be an immense gain over the two or three months required at present for the same journey. Activity in the matter is considerable. During the year 1897 the sum of 356,353 sols was expended on it, and, considering the condition of the finances of the country, it is a demonstration of the importance attached to its completion.

A very favorable report is made of the agricultural conditions of the country, coffee and cacao being especially noted as advancing in quantity and value. Cotton, while grown in an increasing ratio, does not figure as largely as heretofore among exports, owing, no doubt, to the establishment of manufactories within the Republic for its consumption. Lard shows a falling off both in imports and exports, from which it is concluded that the native production of this article has increased. Alpaca wool, whose annual shipments reach a value of 2,000,000 sols, is the principal commercial industry of southern Peru. Sheep, llamas, and alpacas are raised in the Andean regions of the departments of Arequipa, Puno, Cuzco, and Apurimac, the plains of which are situated about 4,000 meters above the level of the sea. It is, however, the alpaca which is the most esteemed and is worth double the other two species. Shearing is done every two years, generally during the rainy

season, each animal yielding from 1 to 2 kilos of wool 20 centimeters in length.

It has been remarked that the wool is less beautiful when the rains have been less abundant. At present the only market for this wool is Liverpool, although Peruvian exporters have frequently sought other outlets for their goods, notably New York, but always without success. Sometimes it has even been necessary to reship at Liverpool wools which could not have been sold primarily in New York without great loss, Americans seemingly preferring to deal with Liverpool. This system only proves the force of habit. As European purchasers follow the same practice, the supremacy of the Liverpool market, which also supplies the Bradford factories, is the chief factor in alpaca wools. The production of this wool has not varied in the last twenty years, preserving always an annual average of 45,000 quintals, or 2,000 tons. It is exported in bales containing from 130 to 150 pounds. Peru has the monopoly of this product, as all efforts to raise the animals in Australia and elsewhere have proven fruitless, and at present the export of live alpacas is forbidden by law.

Mining is, as always, one of the chief industries of Peru, and the establishment of plants for treating the ores is continually on the increase. The most notable change in this branch is the importance attached to copper mining, which in the Cerro de Pasco district is only hindered by the scarcity of transportation facilities.

Mr. RENOZ, in dealing with the rubber question, follows the opinion of other writers in advising the establishment of plantations which shall supplement the product of the forests, whose destruction he considers inevitable, by reason of the methods at present employed of extracting the sap from the trees. He regards this, however, as a remote contingency, as the forest wealth of Peru in rubber trees is very great, and cites as reasons in favor of that Republic as a field for operations: low export duties and the salubrity of the climate.

England and Germany rank the United States in commercial importance with Peru, the first named supplying cotton textiles, sackings, quicksilver, colza and palm oil, portable railroads, ironware, machinery, silks, common woolens, paper, dynamite, and caustic soda; while Germany sends hats, agricultural and mining machinery, woolens, and beer.

PROPOSED STEAMSHIP LINE FROM SPAIN.

The Secretary of the United States Legation at Lima, under date of September 9, 1899, sends to the Department of State at Washington, an article from "El Comercio," the leading newspaper of that city, treating of a proposed steamship line from Spanish ports to those of Peru. At that time a representative of the Transatlantic Steamship Company of Barcelona was in Lima in the interest of the service proposed. It would appear that Spain is putting forth extra efforts to secure a proportionate interest in the trade of those countries where the Spanish language is spoken. It is noted that this company is also

reported to have made a contract with the Chilean Government to give a monthly service to Valparaiso in return for a moderate subvention. Low freight rates will be charged on merchandise destined for Chilean ports, and the journal cited above expresses the opinion that were the service extended from Valparaiso to Callao, not only would Peruvian-Chilean trade be greatly benefited, but the commerce between Spain and Peru would receive an impetus.

SALVADOR.

NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

On October 11, 1899, the President of Salvador formed his new Cabinet, as follows:

Minister of the Interior and Foreign Relations, Señor Dr. Don Don REUBEN RIVERA.

Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Señor Dr. Don FIDEL A. NOVOA.

Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Señor Dr. Don JOSÉ PRESENTACIÓN TRIGUEROS.

MINT PROPERTY TRANSFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

On October 6 last the Under Secretary of the Interior and Public Works, Don CARLOS D'AUBUISSON, in representation of the Government of Salvador, and the general attorney in fact of the Central American Mint Company, Limited, for the company, entered into a contract under the terms of which the mint, the buildings, machinery, and other appurtenances thereunto belonging, formerly in the possession of the company, were transferred and conveyed to the Government, and all claims the company has or may have against the Government were definitely canceled.

In consideration of the foregoing, and in payment of the property transferred, the Government, by the terms of the contract, authorizes the issuance by the General Treasury of bonds in the sum of £17,500 at the official exchange of 150 per cent, to be redeemed through the funding of 5 per cent of the custom-house duties. These bonds are to be delivered for collection to the London Bank of Central America, Limited, which is bound to remit on the 15th of each month the sum collected to London for payment to the company. Should the total amount of the remittances received by the company, after the sale of all of the said bonds, exceed the sum of £17,500, the company will immediately return to the Government the amount of the excess, and should the total remittances be less than the said sum the Government shall at once pay to the company the amount of the difference in bonds of a like kind, or in cash, at the option of the Government.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of September, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the nine months ending September, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for September, for example, are not published until some time in November:

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche*)—				
Mexico	$7,849		$9,641	$11,995
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	18,319		159,358	152,392
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao*):				
Central America	90		6,902	809
Brazil	30,890	$8,274	137,867	261,814
Other South America	34,496	72,353	925,100	1,274,233
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	145,009	58,887	3,997,829	5,000,692
Mexico	113,939	82,929	2,723,255	2,531,335
Brazil	3,472,271	2,621,115	26,202,620	27,678,349
Other South America	483,559	201,238	5,884,671	5,315,028
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	1,933		131,158	116,924
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequen; Henequen; Hennequen*)—				
Mexico	196,749	877,762	5,623,075	6,282,896
Philippine Islands	127,460	155,891	2,133,437	3,341,319
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	151,715	171,541	1,343,474	1,576,483
South America	39,229	68,401	408,809	809,476
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	340	5,269	4,070	16,192
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America		16,218	73,137	142,727
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	27,221	34,778	159,403	263,350
Mexico	83,258	119,926	1,306,751	1,547,002
South America	578,655	504,838	7,307,567	7,929,925

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	$53,713	$33,094	$376,616	$653,546
Mexico	2,538	7,161	40,663	136,930
Brazil	634,115	787,206	9,779,200	13,392,701
Other South America	87,002	108,024	566,255	769,596
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	106,120	194,489	1,237,086	1,630,287
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	3,807	6,723	206,319	168,585
Mexico	351	811	43,919	65,704
Cuba	1,124,029	962,922	11,021,781	17,460,873
Brazil	24,321	----------	2,386,886	681,865
Other South America	475,838	190,398	3,602,996	3,675,325
Hawaiian Islands	1,280	3,097,673	14,328,404	19,146,374
Philippine Islands	90,033	150,359	823,233	1,110,563
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	64,227	5,144	201,278	27,492
Cuba	205,084	350,631	1,882,006	4,725,770
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	35,058	35,661	146,378	252,509
Mexico	68,209	35,612	214,887	323,193
Cuba	----------	8,915	933	49,496
South America	----------	----------	35,241	10,921
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	22	9,308	534,370	479,474
Class 2 (combing)	----------	----------	19,029	101
Class 3 (carpet)	657	77,887	759,641	439,155

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$3,326	$146	$5,290	$5,797
Mexico	17,390	28,335	116,131	234,669
Santo Domingo	50	----------	354	744
Cuba	129	15,559	2,550	79,226
Porto Rico	----------	497	426	4,382
Argentina	435,505	397,850	805,511	1,665,214
Brazil	983	627	18,838	25,245
Colombia	----------	100	3,895	577
Other South America	36,171	75,243	224,027	242,486
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	----------	400	2,165	565
Mexico	6,945	13,490	66,127	97,086
South America	1,766	----------	6,903	2,380
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	135	2,530	4,733	67,755
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	2,020	----------	10,915	1,758
Mexico	11,801	6,025	69,166	58,260
South America	173	250	2,023	2,730
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	2,857	----------	8,802	3,210
South America	875	982	8,253	6,787

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	$1,044	$957	$23,148	$40,617
Mexico	5,989	9,922	61,237	57,769
Santo Domingo	4	16	858	7,314
Cuba	2,729	4,250	5,554	51,005
Porto Rico	957	501	1,322	14,442
Argentina	1,803	1,958	18,033	19,256
Brazil	4,197	11,068	36,651	35,291
Colombia	507	4,127	7,564	37,440
Other South America	4,516	2,484	37,255	48,891
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	2,060	2,140	45,820	28,724
Mexico	724	5,675	6,984	105,478
Santo Domingo			63	315
Cuba	9,861	18,469	237,152	337,958
Porto Rico				251
South America	1,579	22,435	14,339	42,478
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	86,365	42,705	942,690	655,204
Mexico	7,501	15,865	71,630	119,497
Santo Domingo	898	7,531	147,810	103,504
Cuba	121,425	134,396	946,001	1,520,071
Porto Rico	59,267	36,512	256,843	407,573
Brazil	258,792	118,138	2,239,779	1,959,627
Colombia	20,744	19,298	290,066	342,705
Other South America	125,404	89,987	1,147,640	1,214,833
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	6,923		32,855	13,944
South America	44	719	385,777	69,318
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	1,904	1,301	36,638	14,812
Mexico	45,409	63,539	206,959	657,248
Santo Domingo		341	10,671	11,755
Cuba	384	16,129	19,561	112,739
Porto Rico	16	425	1,445	8,671
Argentina	28,280	33,402	454,505	198,174
Brazil	19,096	44,347	548,400	186,328
Colombia	1,184	2,152	39,249	13,443
Other South America	1,768	11,179	66,965	40,376
Cycles and parts of (*Bicicles y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties*):				
Central America	585	324	5,554	4,143
Mexico	5,735	2,830	50,951	35,557
Santo Domingo			598	298
Cuba	61	14,662	3,406	64,504
Porto Rico	124	77	1,354	2,311
Argentina	8,579	31,756	79,031	232,518
Brazil	5,879	2,996	82,040	26,393
Colombia	503	682	6,893	6,790
Other South America	2,142	8,045	34,518	49,938
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	66	195	4,148	2,682
Mexico	1,419	2,934	15,183	23,449
Argentina		364	22,966	21,160
Brazil	6,103	5,100	33,174	41,639
Other South America	6,436	5,294	65,177	53,844
Coal (*Carbón; Carvão; Charbon*):				
Central America	1,094	1,441	7,754	13,394
Mexico	76,453	108,832	828,127	1,096,995
Santo Domingo	1,198	338	7,821	6,874
Cuba	52,268	56,980	325,351	524,161
Porto Rico		8,117	15,098	41,101
Brazil	55,618	3,936	125,605	98,585
Colombia	184		17,331	49,606
Other South America	28,982	7,420	100,619	53,229

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	$6,799	$27,802	$259,358	$210,30
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	54,543	12,378	623,539	428,116
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	64,504	50,025	349,469	464,744
Mexico	39,541	51,028	333,763	410,198
Santo Domingo	5,224	5,364	111,523	138,276
Cuba	241	57,165	6,192	617,837
Porto Rico	143	12,087	1,166	227,000
Argentina	12,725	9,377	121,536	96,424
Brazil	37,657	21,523	423,855	315,512
Colombia	19,773	22,787	205,328	305,970
Other South America	71,576	59,976	918,296	853,662
Wearing apparel (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	12,845	16,816	164,477	209,880
Mexico	26,570	38,636	278,585	330,200
Santo Domingo	1,299	985	15,879	13,879
Cuba	1,169	16,322	12,024	146,181
Porto Rico	85	7,898	831	39,403
Argentina	4,056	1,950	32,671	36,257
Brazil	2,889	1,504	32,269	23,422
Colombia	2,134	3,165	29,066	32,223
Other South America	5,017	4,394	31,316	55,647
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	2,385	1,720	20,350	19,599
Mexico	6,065	4,964	43,883	50,811
Santo Domingo	23	56	475	382
Cuba	4,942	6,893	17,447	44,699
Porto Rico	244	511	531	4,458
Argentina	155	289	6,584	14,566
Brazil	1,364	407	6,416	7,049
Colombia	356	225	5,397	6,744
Other South America	1,672	891	12,134	13,594
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America				
Mexico	210		2,209	2,084
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	10,705	5,028	54,538	49,104
Mexico	7,323	31,328	224,409	369,663
Argentina	32,140	27,308	129,186	218,213
Brazil	13,121	48,857	53,265	114,535
Other South America	6,197	11,141	80,833	98,818
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	7,124		18,475	17,734
Mexico	32,986	29,748	539,020	340,812
South America	31,210	12,115	292,613	102,291
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils*)—				
Central America	6,332	5,473	56,043	65,013
Mexico	21,414	36,056	289,218	333,641
Santo Domingo	10	560	8,847	7,013
Cuba	9,493	37,592	34,797	313,822
Porto Rico	688	1,936	4,387	23,471
Argentina	20,998	17,782	138,444	191,814
Brazil	20,325	21,587	135,496	181,663
Colombia	7,317	6,614	66,361	78,994
Other South America	8,319	28,422	140,363	192,109

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued.				
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	$2,152	$2,280	$17,406	$15,973
Mexico	7,401	18,261	157,946	222,941
Santo Domingo	63	14	1,347	1,369
Cuba	252	8,082	279	32,593
Porto Rico		194	1,050	3,875
Argentina	9,608	16,794	64,561	135,938
Brazil	4,639	4,638	72,111	100,167
Colombia	7,204	928	54,742	38,999
Other South America	3,689	8,242	79,869	100,421
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	253	140	1,121	1,353
Mexico	725	5,107	24,377	44,536
Santo Domingo				187
Cuba	123	2,355	910	21,321
Argentina	2,777	8,231	20,652	33,250
Brazil	75	1,427	3,624	6,645
Colombia	43	233	1,904	2,371
Other South America	1,633	1,389	11,072	21,673
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	564	1,059	4,714	9,819
Mexico	708	4,109	5,215	17,067
Santo Domingo			358	1,057
Cuba	115	4,058	1,742	24,305
Porto Rico	490	734	1,198	7,528
Argentina	1,433	4,427	13,620	40,677
Brazil	495	6,003	41,287	55,058
Colombia		25	2,445	3,191
Other South America	1,053	1,614	12,204	31,705
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	6,191	16,437	54,561	93,427
Mexico	7,138	28,741	73,954	235,621
Colombia	1,078	2,779	27,259	30,933
Other South America	2,378	1,413	27,651	18,168
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	640	1,584	13,417	11,415
Mexico	571	590	7,305	7,698
Santo Domingo		138	3,294	3,092
Cuba	1,595	1,199	4,181	10,251
Porto Rico	40		321	778
Argentina	1,025	4,560	59,674	71,882
Brazil	18,445	17,925	129,647	168,440
Colombia	241	1,927	9,512	9,472
Other South America	1,274	8,130	58,253	51,462
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*)—				
Central America	408	489	2,406	3,779
Mexico	373	107	3,320	3,465
Santo Domingo	25	55	360	440
Cuba	2,297	4,632	8,092	41,841
Porto Rico	166	425	749	4,257
Argentina	2,734	14,891	105,007	60,430
Brazil	1,560	6,001	55,860	51,344
Colombia	337	337	3,601	5,141
Other South America	519	10,312	50,850	52,306
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crús; Huiles minéraux, brutes*):				
Mexico	29,593		210,758	355,684
Cuba	12,963	32,206	98,605	181,644
Porto Rico			19,477	12,512

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos minerares, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	$11,072	$9,527	$89,951	$106,576
Mexico	7,213	12,444	121,787	158,013
Santo Domingo	443	11,546	33,096	29,826
Cuba	6,697	3,502	32,998	90,038
Porto Rico	6,372	1,773	16,204	41,775
Argentina	71,299	130,561	732,058	784,121
Brazil	98,246	156,089	1,111,987	1,150,678
Colombia	4,013	11,234	83,335	103,712
Other South America	16,622	109,406	750,457	894,891
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	111	515	2,402	4,073
Mexico	27,261	47,655	246,604	431,477
Santo Domingo	337	3,666	25,828	22,723
Cuba	282	2,299	1,190	28,014
Argentina	903	1,935	9,259	30,661
Brazil	11,165	15,678	174,687	156,139
Other South America	4,061	15,431	81,404	95,523
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	4,022	862	21,639	21,554
Mexico	9,002	28,888	110,850	191,791
Brazil	1,442	666	8,842	9,173
Other South America	.....	2,788	5,115	8,152
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	1,304	1,391	16,916	15,958
Mexico	1,894	1,235	11,160	15,901
Santo Domingo	.....	10	26	98
Cuba	255	230	5,103	11,013
Argentina	.....	.....	505	1,484
Brazil	962	2,767	19,678	12,827
Colombia	515	473	4,097	5,229
Other South America	319	1,616	9,931	13,744
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	3,271	3,621	27,957	29,105
Mexico	.....	800	190	1,794
Santo Domingo	.....	673	2,999	4,680
Cuba	2,568	1,070	9,367	20,875
Porto Rico	31	50	171	1,414
Brazil	476	32	1,405	1,265
Colombia	682	969	9,853	13,372
Other South America	14,020	19,793	134,013	124,928
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	6,746	4,483	73,447	68,808
Mexico	1,797	1,426	17,751	22,672
Santo Domingo	.....	1,447	16,018	14,517
Cuba	4,499	153	11,641	2,129
Porto Rico	.....	.....	176	319
Brazil	731	1,963	6,356	22,419
Colombia	769	2,605	7,341	15,980
Other South America	560	7,850	17,183	36,393
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	1,754	1,839	12,143	14,915
Mexico	972	2,797	8,760	16,457
Santo Domingo	.....	338	1,922	1,725
Cuba	48,164	85,128	448,621	711,865
Porto Rico	7,064	3,135	28,064	55,879
Brazil	74,357	12,399	333,029	157,391
Colombia	95	33	773	1,517
Other South America	919	804	15,714	11,616
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	2,491	1,784	18,287	18,701
Mexico	3,104	3,748	20,733	25,474
Santo Domingo	.....	414	5,448	4,939
Cuba	26,400	51,702	220,107	560,199

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products— Continued.				
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—Cont'd.				
Porto Rico	$3,301	$4,203	$14,679	$18,397
Brazil	655	561	3,317	2,710
Colombia	973	827	10,270	13,264
Other South America	6,181	3,946	50,306	63,688
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	5,546	3,837	60,458	49,347
Santo Domingo	300	1,387	5,550	5,071
Cuba	2,040	12,925	11,669	59,569
Porto Rico	25,686	8,532	101,041	140,971
Brazil	73	93	4,211	3,001
Colombia	508	630	6,739	28,605
Other South America	11,844	16,560	160,207	146,128
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	10,115	13,785	136,761	132,757
Mexico	14,300	40,454	106,482	209,076
Santo Domingo	298	3,064	27,976	19,608
Cuba	90,303	113,520	812,034	1,350,696
Porto Rico	46,746	8,730	142,566	180,127
Argentina	54	81	2,971	3,382
Brazil	112,197	74,955	764,231	788,289
Colombia	5,729	9,811	72,008	104,332
Other South America	39,643	55,050	487,235	567,454
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	119	547	1,310	3,012
Mexico	49	108	1,009	727
Colombia	710	2,329	6,948	10,015
Other South America	1,476	631	9,490	22,142
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Central America	4,261	3,261	35,551	35,747
Mexico	3,628	3,710	35,079	37,803
Santo Domingo		384	8,767	5,990
Cuba	2,892	4,340	8,011	85,965
Porto Rico	707	218	1,196	4,602
Brazil	2,647	23,506	71,774	168,869
Colombia	678	1,088	11,602	12,289
Other South America	9,736	3,104	80,927	161,610
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	1,554	1,181	13,306	13,140
Mexico	1,077	1,876	11,373	17,344
Santo Domingo	42	437	3,616	3,466
Cuba	3,634	3,180	17,731	54,479
Porto Rico	495	1,315	1,567	28,046
Brazil			75	217
Colombia	497	447	6,925	5,874
Other South America	497	1,466	11,597	10,741
Seeds (*Semillas; Sementes; Semence*):				
Central America	189	101	4,721	3,915
Mexico	505	838	24,916	11,982
Santo Domingo		62	361	321
Cuba	1,215	300	2,121	3,553
Porto Rico	21	81	21	677
Argentina		629	245	11,409
Brazil	95	25	540	713
Colombia	103	24	701	1,103
Other South America	48	257	1,598	1,192
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	1,963	3,397	27,494	17,541
Mexico	58	3,206	9,498	54,534
Santo Domingo		89	970	628
Colombia	1,252	1,539	14,078	12,977
Other South America	83		1,083	2,116
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	579	1,457	18,308	22,890
Mexico	7,926	13,467	96,768	120,054
Argentina		620	13,239	17,992
Colombia		215	6,252	4,929
Other South America	5,731	7,294	73,737	79,737

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	September—		Nine months ending September—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué*):				
Central America	$4,949	$4,449	$43,001	$41,297
Mexico	79	430	24,613	14,817
Cuba	6,605	8,180	84,871	155,075
Argentina	704	2,151	1,782	8,129
Brazil	----	352	550	352
Colombia	1,057	34	5,344	5,259
Other South America	3,707	1,088	56,951	50,544
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	352	1,222	22,257	20,272
Mexico	29,571	1,062	327,509	107,083
Cuba	----	1,017	12,683	42,328
Argentina	679	615	7,086	14,251
Brazil	----	----	75	240
Colombia	4,131	673	25,142	15,191
Other South America	400	10,186	20,903	45,699
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction*):				
Central America	7,428	2,841	30,731	41,201
Mexico	36,658	103,533	575,631	746,953
Santo Domingo	931	1,868	23,930	28,642
Cuba	34,611	33,623	149,982	695,878
Porto Rico	20	10,204	19,224	80,458
Argentina	71,131	51,736	683,736	744,008
Brazil	23,669	60,205	453,870	337,947
Colombia	3,086	5,773	35,619	39,799
Other South America	16,720	40,449	405,090	472,342
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	3,421	3,321	32,394	26,609
Mexico	17,939	25,484	127,602	226,110
Santo Domingo	72	91	6,997	6,272
Cuba	951	20,401	11,260	136,373
Porto Rico	514	3,748	2,970	29,462
Argentina	4,635	7,779	41,487	84,204
Brazil	2,595	5,259	18,875	27,130
Colombia	1,314	1,202	19,493	23,466
Other South America	2,254	6,610	54,410	53,276

EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES.

An examination of the export figures for manufactured articles for the month of September demonstrates the fact that the shipments in this branch were larger in value than during any month of 1898, and were surpassed by only four months of 1899. The total volume of such exports for September was $25,020,047 in 1898 and $31,373,264 in 1899, an increase of more than $6,350,000, while the percentage of increase for the nine months ending with September is somewhat larger. How steadily the volume of exports of American manufactured goods has moved upward from month to month is indicated by the following table, giving the figures for each month of the last three calendar years:

Month.	1897.	1898.	1899.
January	$20,621,179	$22,998,808	$25,806,870
February	20,248,989	21,048,631	24,489,860
March	25,876,861	28,214,450	36,025,733
April	24,013,351	25,992,552	33,015,970
May	26,458,000	27,031,700	30,816,314
June	25,873,997	27,216,869	31,812,775
July	23,602,784	25,983,116	29,932,954
August	22,900,927	25,805,485	34,158,777
September	22,749,114	25,020,047	31,373,264
October	22,247,998	25,416,046	----
November	21,688,204	26,471,131	----
December	23,370,317	28,283,688	----
Total	279,652,721	307,924,994	----

These figures indicate total exports of manufactured goods for the calendar year to the amount of $370,000,000, and perhaps $375,000,000. The total exports of manufactures of iron and steel for the nine months ending with September show an increase from $59,990,665 in 1898 to $76,567,438 in 1899, or in increase within two years of nearly 70 per cent. This improvement has occurred in spite of losses in a few items, notably bicycles, the trade of which seems to have passed its zenith, as since 1897 there has been a steady decline in values exported.

The movement of steel rails has declined materially in respect to British North America, but Asia and Australasia show an increase from $376,087 in 1898 to $1,372,966 in 1899, a part of this increase being no doubt due to the construction of the trans-Siberian railroad and the great railway activity in the Chinese Empire. The advance in exports of textile fibers for the nine months is chiefly under the head of twine, where the value for nine months of 1898 was $995,097, and for the same period of 1899, $1,800,277.

STEAMERS FOR SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

As an addition to W. R. GRACE & CO.'s fleet, engaged in the west-coast trade of South America, the *Cuzco*, a steel steamship of 7,000 tons displacement, was launched recently at Yorker, near Glasgow, on the Clyde. The dimensions are: Length, 375 feet; beam, 50 feet; depth of hold, 28 feet 8 inches; with a tonnage of 4,350 gross and 2,720 net. The steamer has triple-expansion engines and forced draft. A sister ship is being constructed on the Tyne, which will be known as the *Cumbal*, whose completion is anticipated about the first of the year 1900. The freight offered in the United States for the west coast of South and Central America is now plentiful, and the company is anxious for the arrival of these vessels in order to add them to the fleet of the Merchants' Line.

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS.

Among the resolutions adopted by the International Commercial Congress, sitting at Philadelphia between October 14 and October 31, inclusive, were the following:

"Whereas it has been demonstrated in various foreign countries that the parcel-post system is one that is of incalculable advantage to the respective countries; and

"Whereas by means of the parcel-post a far more direct and effective means of introducing samples of commerce can be established in the countries of the world; and

"Whereas this International Commercial Congress is primarily for the purpose of suggesting such matters as will tend to further the mutual commercial interests of the United States and foreign countries: Therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the International Commercial Congress, do recom-

mend that the Congress of the United States and all other governments not now possessing a parcel-post system be requested to establish such a system.

"*Resolved*, That it is most desirable that, as far as practicable, the trade statistics of all countries should be assimilated for all purposes of accurate comparison, and that this Congress place this resolution before the Government of the United States with a view to any action which may be found possible by consultation with foreign governments to obtain such assimilation of statistical returns.

"*Resolved*, That the International Commercial Congress in session assembled requests the United States Government and other nations to consider the subject of establishment by the commercial nations of the world of an International Bureau, for the collection and dissemination of the agricultural reports of said nations as to their cereals, with a view of securing the widest and promptest international circulation of said reports.

"*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Congress that the reciprocal commercial relations of the world would be vastly promoted and facilitated by the creation in each country of an International Bureau of Commercial Information, all organized and to operate on practically uniform lines as initiated by the Philadelphia Museum, or as may be mutually agreed upon; all to interchange all data and information, and otherwise maintain reciprocal relations; all to take up commercial matters of national and international scope, and all conjointly to act as an International Board of Commerce."

"Whereas the economic advantages of an Isthmian Canal would be of supreme importance to the commerce of the world from an industrial and economic standpoint; and

"Whereas its utility and cost have been under consideration for many years, and there is thought to be no reasonable doubt either as to its practicability or expediency, be the cost what it may: Therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That the International Commercial Congress heartily indorses and urges the construction of an interoceanic canal on the Western Hemisphere at the earliest practicable moment."

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE ON THE WEST COAST.

The first steamer of the Kosmos Line, referred to in the October BULLETIN, was advertised to leave Valparaiso on October 25 and reach San Francisco about December 10. This vessel will inaugurate the new line which is to compete with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company on the western coast of Mexico and Central America. The vessels of the new line will carry on a fast regular monthly service from Hamburg, Antwerp, Genoa, and London to San Francisco, touching at the principal ports on the west coast of South America, Central America, and Mexico. The steamers are new and fast, their names, tonnage, and

sailings, as far as advertised, being as follows: *Tanis*, 5,000 tons, leaves Valparaiso October 25; *Volumnia*, 5,000 tons, leaves Hamburg October 14 and Antwerp October 21; *Ammon*, 6,800 tons, leaves Hamburg November 14, via Genoa, Italy (and possibly Cadiz), November 25; *Hathor*, 5,000 tons, leaves Hamburg and Antwerp (date not known). The San Francisco agents of the company are J. D. SPRECKELS & BROS. Co., 327 Market street.

"El Economista Méxicana," referring to the company, states that the speed of its vessels will place Mazatlán within three and a half days of San Francisco.

URUGUAY.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Señor Don PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and Delegate of his country to the International Commercial Congress of Philadelphia, on the 30th day of last month delivered a very interesting address, from which the following is extracted:

"The value of the imports from Uruguay into the United States for the last six months of 1898 was $593,641.73, and in the first six months of 1899 amounted to $1,198,585.28, an increase of $604,940.55—and not one bale of wool imported. Among the articles thus imported hides and jerked beef occupy a very prominent place. The exports from the United States to Uruguay have also increased, for in 1898 they amounted to $1,346,816.15 and for 1897 only $1,113,565.07, an increase of $233,251.08. The exports from January 1 to June 30 of this year had a value of $628,202.42, but the remaining six months of 1899 will show a corresponding increase over 1898."

Señor MURGUIONDO drew a comparison between the imports into Uruguay during the five years from 1894 to 1898, from the United States and other countries of the world, with the following result: From the United States, $6,794,187.08; from the other countries, $112,217,812.92. Referring to the financial situation of his country, Señor MURGUIONDO stated that Uruguay is on a gold basis, and that the Republic pays the interest on its debt with regularity. He also stated that its money standard is higher than any other nation, and that a double eagle of the United States—a $20 piece—is worth in Uruguayan money $19.32. There are in Uruguay several banks with large capital. Señor MURGUIONDO referred to the great mineral wealth of his country, and mentioned a mine now being worked, belonging to French capitalists, which promises to yield as much gold as was produced by the best mines of California.

In the opinion of the Consul-General, what is principally needed to increase the trade between the United States and Uruguay is the

establishment of good lines of steamers equal to those of the "Houston Line" and even of greater speed. The works on the port of Montevideo will cost about $15,000,000 gold, and will make of that beautiful city one of the first ports of America. The plans for the said works are all ready. Before finishing his address Señor MURGUIONDO called attention to a matter of general interest, the stamping out of yellow fever in Central American, and South American and West Indian ports. He said that this has practically been done in Cuba, which has been for many years the cradle of this epidemic in the West Indies. In this regard he mentioned an important work of Surg. Gen. W. WYMAN, which treats extensively of the said disease, and in which he makes valuable suggestion as to the manner of destroying the germs of the same.

The address of Señor MURGUIONDO was listened to with great attention.

CUSTOM-HOUSE RECEIPTS.

The Direccion-General of Statistics of the Government of Uruguay has just published the returns for the last fiscal year (1898–99). From this it is learned that the total customs receipts amounted to $9,734,641. Of this amount $8,358,696 were derived from import duties and $1,375,945 from export duties.

For the previous fiscal year the receipts were only $9,567,640; $8,191,003 from import duties and $1,376,637 from export duties. This indicated but a slight increase for the period under comparison, but it is sufficient, however, to show a decided improvement and a continuation of the healthy condition of business.

A FRENCH COMMERCIAL MUSEUM AT MONTEVIDEO.

The French Minister at Montevideo has recently informed his Government that the Spanish colony is discussing the question of the creation of a commercial museum in that city, which will be at the same time a sort of depository for merchandise there. It is said that steps have also been taken at Buenos Ayres for the same purpose. In the capital of Uruguay a place has already been especially prepared.

The Minister reports the regulations of the institution as follows:

Through the efforts of the French Chamber of Commerce a museum (permanent exposition of samples) has been organized in connection with the School of Commerce. This museum will be a center of commercial activity which will facilitate the practical teachings of the commercial school. The working and management of the museum will be in the simplest form.

(1) The samples will be arranged in groups.

(2) In giving practical instruction the teachers and students of the commercial school will examine and classify the samples.

(3) There will be for each section one or more active and intelligent representatives nominated by the Legation on the recommendation of the Commercial Chamber.

(4) These agents will be in communication with the merchants, manufacturers, and artists interested.

(5) These representatives shall also be conversant with the market and receive orders.

ALCOHOL MONOPOLY.

Among the numerous projects which the Uruguayan Government proposes to present in the near future to the Legislative Chamber is one for the reservation to the State of the monopoly of selling alcohol. The author of the project is Señor CAMPISTEGUI, Minister of Finance, who will obtain by this means, it is confidently expected, an increase in revenue to the extent of 800,000 piasters at least, deduction being made of all the expenses of administration and exploitation in the matter.

Besides the economical advantage accruing to the State from this project the monopoly would also insure a successful issue in the contest against the consumption of poisonous alcohols, which are at present placed on the market by unscrupulous speculators.

According to the terms of the proposed monopoly the distilleries established in the Republic will only be permitted to make the first distillation and may not sell their product except at the central gauging establishment.

After the promulgation of this law the gradation of wines from abroad will be limited to 13° to 15° C., and an alcoholic excess will pay a duty more or less advanced.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Bureau of the American Republics has been informed that by decree of the Superior Government of Uruguay Señor Don JOSÉ J. SCHIAFFINO has been appointed Director of the Bureau of Deposit, Distribution, and International Exchange of Publications, to succeed Señor Don PEDRO MA. RIVIÈRE, who has been transferred to the chief clerkship of the Ministry of War and Marine.

The Banco Nacional of Uruguay is negotiating for the purchase of the Oeste Oriental Railway.

VENEZUELA.

BOUNDARY LINE WITH BRITISH GUIANA.

According to Volume II of the "Proceedings of the Arbitration between the Governments of Her British Majesty and the United States of Venezuela," the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana is as follows:

"Starting from the coast at Point Playa the line of boundary shall run in a straight line to the River Barima at its junction with the River Mururuma, and thence along the midstream of the latter river to

its source, and from that point to the junction of the River Halowa with the Amakuru, and thence along the midstream of the Amakuru to its source in the Imataka Ridge, and thence in a southwesterly direction along the highest ridge of the spur of the Imataka Mountains to the highest point of the main range of such Imataka Mountains opposite to the source of the Barima, and thence along the summit of the main ridge in a southeasterly direction of the Imataka Mountains to the source of the Acarabisi to the Cuyuni, and thence along the northern bank of the River Cuyuni westward to its junction with the Wenamu, and thence following the midstream of the Wenamu to its westernmost source, and thence in a direct line to the summit of Mount Roraima, and from Mount Roraima to the source of the Cotinga, and along the midstream of that river to its junction with the Takutu, and thence along the midstream of the Takutu to its source, thence in a straight line to the westernmost point of the Akarai Mountains, and thence along the ridge of the Akarai Mountains to the source of the Corentin, called the Cutari River."

The discrepancy between this delimitation and that described in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October, is due to the fact that the latter was obtained from telegraphic dispatches rather than from official reports.

RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES.

The Venezuelan Consul-General, resident at New York, Mr. ANTONIO E. DELFINO, read an interesting paper before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia at its thirteenth day's session, setting forth many valuable features of the resources and present industries of the Republic. Mr. DELFINO'S remarks were in part as follows:

"Venezuela is situated on the northern coast of South America and has an area twice as large as that of France. Half of this large area, the southern part, is covered by immense forests scarcely yet touched by the ax, and is watered by many navigable rivers. It keeps almost intact its hidden treasures of gold, quicksilver, and vanadium, its luxuriant vegetation of valuable woods, of medicinal plants, rubber trees, and textile plants. Some of its smaller rivers and natural channels are sometimes impassable on account of thick shoals of turtles, and sometimes great flocks of herons, aroused by the rare passage of a traveler, take their flight and darken the light of the sun.

"The other half, or the northern part, is equally divided into agricultural and grazing lands. The chief export products of Venezuela are coffees, cocoa, hides, cattle, rubber, woods, asphalt, copper, and gold in bars. Exports sum up, roughly speaking, to about $20,000,000, coffee representing about 80 per cent of the total value. This amount increases or decreases according to the oscillation of the market prices. Imports do not reach the value of exports, but are always fluctuating according to buying power.

"The principal market of Venezuela for imports or exports is the

United States, half of the crops being shipped to that country, and the other half is bought by France and Germany. Venezuelan cattle are shipped to the West Indies.

"Venezuela is very thinly peopled and the population is scattered along the northern coast. It may be said that Venezuela to-day in agriculture, in forestry, and in mining has its wealth still unexploited or undeveloped. But still, apart from the mines, there are lines on which trade could be carried on and which are of great importance to-day and which will be more so in the future.

"The cattle in Venezuela outnumber the population many times and nature keeps a large part of the country fit only for grazing purposes.

"The overflowing of the rivers of the interior during the rainy season covers immense plains, which, as soon as the waters retire, are clothed with the best pasturage. The rapidly increasing population of the United States and the consequent diminution of its grazing territory will force it to look abroad for its beef supply. No country can offer a larger, a better, and a nearer supply of cattle to this country than Venezuela. Its coast is not three days distant from New Orleans, and scarcely six from New York and Philadelphia, with steamers of moderate speed in direct communication with those cities." Mr. DELFINO called the attention of the great packing industries of the United States and of Europe to the facilities that Venezuela offers for this trade. "Puerto Cabello, Guanta, and Carenero are the best natural ports for shipping that can be imagined. It is from these ports that Cuba is supplied with cattle. The native race of cattle is hardy, and as oxen for working in a tropical country they have not their equals. The nearness of Venezuela makes possible the export not only of cattle on the hoof but also of dressed beef." The Consul-General is of the opinion that a few years will see the establishment of a great packing house near one of the above-mentioned seaports that will supply the West Indies and the southern coast of the United States with dressed beef, just as Chicago does cities 1,500 miles away. Not long ago a European corporation, aware of the increasing needs of the world and of the grazing lands of Venezuela, purchased a large tract near one of the seaports for raising cattle.

"There is another large industry in the United States that is paying to-day for its raw material twice its former price, and that Venezuela could furnish with an ample supply, namely, henequen or hemp. It grows wild all over the coast. A recent traveler interested in the cordage industry in going through the western part of the country was struck by the great quantity of the textile plant that spread in uninterrupted course for miles, and he noticed that the leaves were, on the average, 2 feet longer than those of the Yucatan plant. Venezuelan hemps will no doubt be on the market before long.

"Along the coast there are mines of coal, asphalt, and copper, and quarries of marble, and much remains to be developed.

"To sum up, men of enterprise with some capital, knowledge, and perseverance will have their labors repaid in Venezuela by large returns, whether they choose to enter the field of the mining, agricultural, or the grazing industry."

THE NEW TARIFF.

The "Südamerikanische Rundshau "for October publishes a resumé of the new tariff of the Republic of Venezuela, which went into effect on the 1st of September of this year, a translation of which was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for August, 1899, pages 193, 194, and which differs in many points from that previously in force. Generally speaking the present tariff is 20 per cent higher than the preceding one. The division of articles into nine different classes has been retained as formerly, with the difference that articles of class 1, which formerly comprised the free list, have been subjected to the duty of 0.02 bolivar and the free list materially curtailed. In the new law the second class pays 0.125 bolivar per kilo; the third, 0.30; the fourth, 0.90; the fifth, 1.50; the sixth, 3; the seventh, 6; the eighth, 12; and the ninth, 24 bolivars per kilo. The following articles, among others, have been eliminated from the free list: Fire extinguishers (class 1), white paper (class 2), eggs (class 2), machinery, materials, and colors for printing (class 1), printers' cases and stands (class 4).

Under the old law household effects of citizens of the country which had been in use for two years abroad were admitted free of duty; this provision also applied to foreigners. Now only the actual traveling effects are admitted duty free, while on new goods and furniture, even if the latter has been used, the duty must be paid. Mineral waters, barrels, and their parts, tools made of iron, sheet tin, caustic soda, and petroleum, all of which were formerly on the free list, are now put in class 2. Refined olive oil, flaxseed oil, instruments (scissors, etc.), boots and shoes, compasses, knives, water-levels, files, tongs, etc., pianos, red wine in barrels and bottles, and white wine in barrels are placed in class 2, whereas white wine in bottles is placed in class 4, in which is also to be found the machete, made of steel, shovels, and other utensils. White and colored cotton goods are in class 5. Essences, perfumery, extracts of all kinds, perfumed toilet water, cognac, absinthe, brandy, fine yarns, satin percale, mousseline, etc., are in class 6. Canes, whips, toys of all kinds, fans made of paper, wood, and cotton, are in class 7. The most valuable of all imported goods, however, are provided for in class 9. Hats of all kinds, with the exception of straw hats and hat forms, linen and woolen shirts, cotton shirts, washable wearing apparel of all kinds, jewelry, watches, and jewelers' goods, arms of all kinds (swords, guns, pistols, etc.).

The duty is levied upon the gross weight of the goods, with but one exception, which is empty bottles that are again exported filled, upon which the tare is allowed.

To the list of articles whose importation is forbidden has been added sword-canes and matches, the latter in consequence of the match monopoly in the country. If any of these articles are brought to Venezuela they will be stopped upon the frontier and a fee of 0.075 bolivar per kilo will be collected previous to their being sent out of the country.

Firearms and ammunition may only be imported after permission has been obtained from the Government. Samples of textiles and wall paper not exceeding a weight of 25 kilos are admitted duty free.

The free importation of machinery and implements for mining is provided for in a special paragraph of the law, as is also the case with agricultural implements, electrical apparatus, and electric motors.

The fact is especially noticeable that many of the articles which are imported, particularly those whose origin is in the United States, as petroleum, iron tools, meats, etc., have been granted a slight advantage in the duty, while, on the contrary, those same goods of European manufacture must pay the high duty, and according to the correspondent of the "Südamerikanische Rundshau," it is "a remarkable sign of the advancement of American influence in South America, and it should be noted by all Europeans."

Especial attention is called to the fact that the formalities in regard to the customs must be carefully adhered to, otherwise severe penalties are inflicted.

PEARL FISHERIES.

The "Commercial Bulletin" of Brussels, in a recent issue, gives some interesting information concerning the pearl fisheries of Venezuela. For more than three centuries, that is to say, since the discovery of America, the pearl fisheries of the island of Margarita, off the northern coast of Venezuela, have been known, and yet this industry is at the present time practiced principally by natives. It is estimated that the average annual income received from this source is about 500,000 francs, which sum, however, is far from representing the true value of the fisheries in this locality. The pearls are purchased of the natives by a few merchants who operate for European houses.

The fishing for oyster pearls is not subjected to any legal restriction in the Republic, and the boats used have to pay but a small tax of about 120 francs per year. About 400 boats are engaged in this industry, but none are provided with diving apparatus. The natives' mode of procedure is very primitive. They use a heavy metal scoop which is dragged on the bottom of the sea and which is drawn up when it has collected a certain quantity of oysters.

According to the United States Minister at Caracas, the best banks are to be found on the small islands situated near Margarita, where are also enormous quantities of shells which could be utilized in the preparation of mother-of-pearl. Taking into consideration the wealth of these pearl fisheries, it is quite probable that boats supplied with divers and diving bells might obtain excellent results.

SURVEY OF THE ORINOCO DELTA.

The U. S. S. *Dolphin* left the United States on November 5, under command of Commander Sutherland, U. S. N., and will proceed via La Guayra to the mouth of the Orinoco (Boca Grande), where she will make a complete survey of the bar.

THE TRANS-ISTHMIAN CANAL.

The session of the International Commercial Congress for October 24 was devoted to the discussion of an interoceanic canal and problems attendant thereto through Nicaragua and Panama, and several valuable papers were read on the subject of Isthmian waterways.

Señor DON JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Costa Rica, and official Delegate to the said Congress, spoke as follows:

"The thought of uniting the two great oceans by means of a canal across the American isthmus sprang up, as is known, from the moment the conviction was reached that the passage, which from the days of Columbus had been thought to exist toward the Southern Sea, was not a reality.

"To recommend the merits of this project is unnecessary, since they are at once evident upon the mere suggestion of the advantage to the world of a short and easy route between the Atlantic, which is the sea of Europe, and the Pacific, which is the great ocean of Asia, Australia, and the extensive western shores of the New World.

"The history of the project in general is well known, and as to the practicability of the work we all know that eminent authorities in the matter have given a favorable opinion.

"I will not, therefore, dwell upon either of these points, nor do I deem it necessary to engage the attention of this honorable Congress by an extended treatment of the advantages which are offered to the commerce of the whole world by the great undertaking of connecting the two seas. My desire on taking part in this session is limited to expressing, although briefly, that it may be better appreciated, the position of Costa Rica and her direct interest in the canal enterprise.

"The territory of Costa Rica lies between that of Nicaragua and Panama, the two parts of the isthmus whose names distinguished the French project of the Panama Canal from the Nicaragua Canal, which has always been the American project. This advantageous position assures to the industrious and peaceful people of Costa Rica all the benefits of proximity as the nearest neighbor, whichever of the two places the route may ultimately traverse. But the Costa Rican frontier does not reach the line of the Panama Canal, while a portion of our

territory is indispensable to the Nicaragua route. And this is not a new fact or one established by recent surveys, but which is well known since the very days of VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA. Nevertheless the first survey of the land was not carried out until the year 1581, when, in obedience to superior instructions, Capt. ANTONIO PEREIRA, Governor of Costa Rica, organized an expedition and explored the route by way of the San Juan river, the lake, and the rivers emptying into Gulf Nicoya, Costa Rica. Thirty-nine years later DIEGO DE MERCADO submitted to King Philip III his famous report of January 23, 1620, suggesting the route by the river and lake, and thence through Costa Rican territory along the Quebrada or Barranca Honda to Salinas Bay, then called Puerto del Papagayo.

"Either because the magnitude of the undertaking was at that time superior to the necessities of trade, or, as was said, because Spain considered the canal antagonistic to her interests, the era of independence arrived without the execution of the project ever having been entered upon.

"After independence the Congress of Central America, in which Costa Rica and Nicaragua were represented as States of the Federation which succeeded the Colonial Government, enacted on June 16, 1825, a decree providing for the construction of the canal, and in that same year Don ANTONIO JOSÉ CAÑAS, Diplomatic Representative of Central America in Washington, addressed the Secretary of State, Mr. HENRY CLAY, informing him of this resolution and stating that: 'A company formed of American citizens of respectability was ready to undertake the work as soon as a treaty with the United States insuring the cooperation of the latter was signed; that he was ready to enter into negotiations for the treaty, and that nothing would be more pleasant for Central America than to see the generous people of the United States joining her in the opening of the canal, sharing the glory of the enterprise, and enjoying the great advantages to be derived from it.'

"The Government of Central America could not carry the undertaking into effect, notwithstanding that among the means employed to reach the desired result there figures the arrangement concluded with the King of Holland in October, 1830. But, though the hopes centered in the undertaking were frustrated, to the honor of Central America the declarations of that Congress, which constitute, like the concession for the canal itself, one of the loftiest public documents ever issued by any nation of the earth, have become a matter of record.

"The Central American Federation dissolved, this important matter attached to Nicaragua and Costa Rica directly, and the boundary line between the two republics having been determined by the treaty of April 15, 1858, as were also the points relative to the canal, the two governments jointly granted a concession on May 1 of that same year to Mr. FELIX BELLY, a distinguished French writer, to whom the Emperor Napoleon gave his support to carry forward the undertaking.

This failing of accomplishment, the two governments, in perfect accord, concluded the contract known as the Ayon-Chevalier, signed by Nicaragua on October 16, 1868, and by Costa Rica on June 18, 1869, which, it is unnecessary to say, also failed to produce any results whatever.

"Some years after the expiration of this last contract Nicaragua promoted a discussion as to the validity of the treaty and the meaning of some of its stipulations, which Costa Rica upheld in its original form, and the question was submitted to the decision of the President of the United States, Mr. CLEVELAND, who in his award of March 22, 1888, accepted by both parties, declared the treaty valid and binding upon each Republic and interpreted the points which in the opinion of Nicaragua were doubtful. According to the provisions of both of these documents, the treaty and award, even in the remote event that the natural rights of Costa Rica should not be injured, Nicaragua is bound not to make any grants for canal purposes across her territory without first asking the opinion of the Republic of Costa Rica.

"Three years prior, and while this question was still pending, Nicaragua concluded the treaty known as the Zavala-Frelinghuysen, signed in Washington on December 1, 1884, whereby the title to the canal was conveyed to the United States, and Costa Rica adhered to this treaty under date of February 23, 1885; but the negotiations remained without effect, because, ratification having been denied in the Senate, although a reconsideration of the subject had been agreed to, President CLEVELAND, on inaugurating his first administration, withdrew the document from the Senate.

"Things then returned to the status they formerly maintained, and Nicaragua in April, 1887, and Costa Rica in July, 1888, respectively granted the concessions pursuant to which the construction of the American waterway has been pending of late years.

"The Congress of the United States has been giving special attention to this important matter since the year 1892, and commissions have been created charged with the survey and location of the route, as well as the study of the influence of the canal in its different aspects. Recently the investigation is not limited to the route by Nicaragua and Costa Rica alone, but extends to Panama, and it is hoped that when the new commission, appointed this year, presents its conclusions Congress will determine whether a canal will be constructed by this Government, and, if so, which of the two routes will be adopted.

"Costa Rica realizes the great importance of this work, the most transcendental, perhaps, undertaken in this age, and contributes to encourage it, consulting her own interest and the impulse to be derived from it by the general progress of the world, and especially of the nations of this continent."

This was followed by a paper by Dr. LUIS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ, Secretary of the Colombian Legation and Chargé d'Affaires, as follows:

"To discuss the necessity of opening an interoceanic canal to com-

plete the work of the great BALBOA is useless, as the daily necessities of the trade of the world are every day greater and demand that the waters of the Atlantic should be joined to those of the Pacific within the American continent.

"The commercial side of the work has been investigated as well as the technical, and there can be no doubt of the practicability of this great enterprise. As to the route that must be chosen, in my judgment no doubt can exist.

"The works at Panama represent an accumulation of material and intellectual effort which can not be equaled in many years elsewhere, and it would be a crime against civilization to permit them to be lost.

"The Colombian nation, following its glorious traditions, has in this matter only considered the interests of civilization, and when the concession for the opening of that canal in its territory was given it was given without limitation except as to the sovereignty and integrity of its territory and the interests of universal commerce.

"Colombia has at present in France an accredited representative plenipotentiary to study all the matters pertaining to the Panama Canal, and upon whose report will depend in great part the decision to be passed on so delicate a subject; but I can assure you that we are accorded complete liberty of action, and that for our country it is a matter of indifference as to what source the capital comes from to do the work, so long as the international guaranties which now exist are not interfered with.

"The great American people, whose standard has been respect for all rights, will realize from the completion of the work of Panama greater benefits than any other of the great nations of the earth, and the opening of the canal will be a new bond to unite the people of Colombia with the great Republic of the North."

An urgent advocate of the Nicaraguan route was Hon. J. J. ULLOA, Consul-General of Costa Rica, who said that the "canal will divide, to unite more firmly, the two Republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and will also introduce the United States into Central America, there to find ample theater for machinery and money to develop a practically virgin soil, which needs nothing else than the spade of well-directed enterprise to return trebled in a very short time the value of the money, of the talent, and of the energies employed there."

The United States Minister to Costa Rica, Hon. WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY, supplemented the arguments in favor of the canal traversing Nicaragua by statements as to the economy of navigable distances, the favorable sanitary conditions, the supply of lockage water, the availability of construction materials and food supplies, the local earning capacity, and its strategical position.

Hon. H. A. GUDGER, United States Consul at Panama, and Mr. J. W. HUMPHREYS, a delegate from the Chamber of Commerce of Colon, read papers presenting the benefits, from their respective points of view,

accruing from the construction of the canal by the Panama route, these opinions being further sustained by Col. J. L. PEARCY, ex-United States Consul at Colon. The remarks of Señor Don LUIS F. COREA will appear in the December BULLETIN.

UNIFORMITY IN COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION.

A matter of great importance laid before the National Commercial Congress at Philadelphia is the necessity for a uniform classification of commercial statistics by different countries. This was fully set forth by Mr. CARROLL D. WRIGHT, United States Commissioner of Labor, who stated that the chief obstacles to be overcome are the difficulties existing in the method of classifying the various categories of exports and imports, the method of valuing imports and exports, and the method of registering imports and exports according to country of origin and ultimate destination as distinguished from the country of immediate import and export.

It is interesting in this connection to note that at a meeting of the International Statistical Institute, held on the 4th of September at Christiania, Norway, the same subject was treated by Mr. A. E. BATEMAN, of the British Board of Trade, who expressed the opinion that in order to render the comparability of international commercial statistics as useful and complete as possible the different systems of registration in use in the various countries should be more thoroughly taken into account. He also drew attention to the various ways of dealing with transit transshipment, and also the methods of dealing with commercial statistics of "free ports," which have been created for the express purpose of the encouragement of trade.

The plan of Prof. CARLO BETOCCHI, of Naples, Italy, as outlined by him before the Commercial Congress, for the establishment of an international central office of chambers of commerce, received great attention, as its purposes tend in a great degree to eliminate the obstacles alluded to by Mr. WRIGHT, as by creating a central bureau for the distribution of commercial statistics bearing upon all the countries of the world, the statistics to be furnished by the respective governments, uniformity of registration and classification would of necessity ensue.

A paper submitted to the Congress by Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, representing the British Government, followed the lines laid down by Mr. WRIGHT and called attention to the errors resulting from difference of classification of the same article in different countries, divergence of treatment regarding statistics of transit and transshipment trade, and lack of uniformity in respect to the exact period included in annual statistics, some countries taking the calendar year and others the fiscal year as a basis of calculation.

THE WORLD'S PRODUCT OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The official figures of the production of gold and silver throughout the world for the calendar year 1898 were issued from the Mint Bureau of the United States on October 26, 1899, and give interesting data concerning the output of these metals for the last three years.

The total production of gold for 1898 is estimated at $287,428,600, the South African Republic leading, with Australasia and the United States following in nearly the same ratio. Next in order come Russia, Canada, India, Mexico, and China, the eight countries named furnishing 94 per cent of the whole.

The following tables exhibit the production of gold and silver in the Pan-American countries for the last three calendar years:

GOLD.

Countries.	1896.	1897.	1898.
United States	$53,088,000	$57,363,000	$64,463,000
Mexico	6,500,000	7,500,000	8,500,000
Argentina	315,000	137,700	137,700
Bolivia	250,300	343,500	343,500
Brazil	1,001,100	1,204,200	1,583,700
Chile	611,000	340,000	340,700
Colombia	2,200,100	2,227,200	2,263,200
Ecuador	132,900	132,900	39,500
Peru	116,600	628,000	628,000
Uruguay	33,600	38,500	38,500
Venezuela	948,500	1,057,400	1,057,400
Central America	372,300	465,800	473,700

SILVER.

	Ounces.	*Ounces.*	*Ounces.*
United States	58,834,800	53,860,000	54,438,000
Mexico	45,718,982	53,903,180	56,738,000
Argentina	328,170	383,479	383,479
Bolivia	6,374,240	8,204,568	8,204,568
Chile	3,236,536	2,591,998	2,591,998
Colombia	3,407,004	5,047,328	5,483,717
Ecuador	7,734	7,734	7,734
Peru	3,847,078	3,278,602	1,951,240
Central America	808,676	811,892	716,008

An idea of the enormous increase in gold production during the last twelve years may be obtained from the statement that in 1887 the total product was only $106,000,000. This increased in 1892 to $146,000,000, which was then the largest for any year in the history of the world. It is estimated that the output in 1898 is eight times larger than the gold product at the time of the California discoveries (1849). The consumption of gold for arts and manufactures is placed at $65,000,000, leaving $222,000,000 available for monetary uses.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP OF 1899.

Estimates of the world's wheat crop for the year 1899, as furnished by the British statistician, BROOMHALL, indicate a general shrinkage in production throughout the world. This feature is not confined to wheat production only, but extends to nearly all other classes of cereals. According to the authority cited, the aggregate world's crop is 2,496,000,000 bushels, a decrease of 390,000,000 as compared with last year, but a gain of 226,000,000 bushels over 1897. The greatest decrease is in the Americas, where a decline of 18.6 per cent (a difference of 168,000,000 bushels) is reported. The falling off in Europe is nearly as large in amount, 163,000,000 bushels, but the proportion is only slightly in excess of 10 per cent. Asia is credited with a decline of 11 per cent, Africa 30, and Australasia 16 per cent.

The visible and invisible reserves of wheat left over from last year's record-breaking crop are reported heavier than any held in recent years, and it is these reserves that will balance the future prices. BROOMHALL'S estimate of reserve wheat is placed at 240,000,000 bushels greater than last year, but in face of the 390,000,000 bushels decrease in yield, the outlook would certainly seem to indicate that all available supplies will be requisitioned.

Another point to which attention has been called by "Bradstreet's Weekly Journal," in commenting on the wheat situation, is the heavy advance in ocean freights growing out of the use of vessels by the British Government for transportation purposes. This advance has been considerable and is equivalent to an independent advance of several cents in the price of wheat, shipments of which are forced to compete with the general export trade for freight room to Europe. This also seems to account, in some degree, for the congestion of wheat traffic in the Argentine Republic, to which reference is made in this issue of the BULLETIN.

THE AMERICAN COFFEE MARKET.

The following paper, setting forth the conditions and requirements of the coffee market in the United States, was recently submitted to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia and incorporated in its report for October 14, 1899. The writer, Mr. A. M. WOOLSON, an importer and coffee roaster, of Ohio, gives many valuable hints to producers seeking a market for their coffees, as follows:

"The American coffee market is without doubt the best market in the world, for the reason that we drink more coffee than any other country.

"By reference to the United States Government Statistical Abstract, published this year, will be seen that we imported the year preceding

June 30, 1898, 6,451,000 bags of coffee, or 870,514,455 pounds, amounting to $65,067,631, at an average cost of 7.4 cents per pound, an estimated consumption per capita of 11.45 pounds. These figures show that we consume nearly as much coffee as does Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Russia, England, and all other countries combined. It can be safely claimed that the American coffee market is the most important. It is presumed that the foreign delegates would like to know how the merchants of America market so much coffee. In this connection I state that previous to 1860 every retail merchant bought his coffee green, and householders generally did the roasting at home, but the inventive genius and skill of the American mechanic improved upon the antiquated methods of roasting to the manifest advantage of consumers, and the appreciation of these benefits resulted in building up several large roasting establishments. People rapidly became educated to buy roasted coffee instead of green, for it is natural for the American people to shift all such responsibilities as roasting coffee.

"The industry has grown to such an extent that at the present time 90 per cent of all the coffee imported into this country is sold by the merchants to the consumer after being roasted.

"The marketing of roasted coffee in this manner proves to be a great saving to the consumer, for it is roasted by men skilled in the business, thoroughly equipped with all the necessary machinery and facilities for conducting the process, which gives a more desirable and uniform product. A few places in Southern parts of the United States appear to cling most tenaciously to the direct consumption of green coffee, but through the North, East, and West the roasted article virtually monopolizes the field.

"It is to be regretted that so much of the coffee imported is so impregnated with small stones or, as we term them, Brazilian diamonds; it forces the roaster to separate by machinery these foreign substances from the coffee. The average is nearly 1 pound of stones to the bag. The grower who sends us the cleanest coffee is rewarded by having his coffee graded higher, consequently a better price is commanded. We have used hundreds of tons of these stones taken from coffee in paving the walks and drives about our homes. Undoubtedly many growers believe that they receive more of their coffee in the aggregate by working in as many stones as possible, but in this they are in error, for the green coffee is all graded by experts, who grade stony coffee lower than they do coffee free from stones."

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AMERICA.

South American progress, from a commercial and industrial standpoint, formed the topic of the remarks of Hon. W. I. BUCHANAN, until recently United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia. In the course of his address Mr. BUCHANAN said:

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"I recall no part of the world to which more attention has been given during the past three years than to South America, and especially to the republics of southern South America.

"France within that time sent a special commissioner there, who spent a year in the study, and whose report has been acted upon with distinct advantage to their interests by French manufacturers and capitalists.

"The British Board of Trade also sent a representative there, who went over the whole industrial ground carefully and reported his conclusions (most favorable ones) to his association. Germany, too, sent special attachés to several of her prominent consulates there, and they have gone about in all directions and have transmitted to their Government lengthy reports with regard to the development to be seen in the republics I refer to and in South America generally.

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"Applying the above facts to my own knowledge of the subject, I am led to the conclusion that the commercial world is to-day more interested in forecasting future possibilities in South America than has ever been the case heretofore, and that the great changes which have occurred in recent years in the productive character and capacity of several of the South American Republics have attracted the world's attention and mark but the beginning of those which can and, I think, will be be brought about in others and expanded where they have occurred.

"Until we stop and think, few of us realize how striking and remarkable have been the changes that have taken place in the character of the production of North and South America during, say, the past thirty or forty years.

"For instance, Chile, not so many years ago either, as one might be inclined to think, produced and sold almost all the flour used on the west coast of South America and Central America, and even as far north as California.

"To-day California and Oregon and Washington not only produce the flour they consume but export toward the South and Europe millions of bushels of wheat and enormous quantities of flour; while Chile, having ceased being a great exporter of flour, has become promi-

nent as an exporter of nitrate, copper, and wines, and a producer of splendid fruit with an exceedingly bright future, I think, ahead in that direction, while her mineral and forest wealth has as yet hardly been touched. Nor is it so long ago since the Argentine Republic imported flour from the United States and exported nothing but dry hides, bones, and coarse wool; to-day she exports in flour and grain 35,000,000 bushels of wheat; one-third of that amount of maize; great quantities of butter; more than two million frozen carcasses of sheep, and some hundreds of thousand of fat live sheep and cattle.

"Part of all this, be it remembered, goes to Brazil and there replaces a commerce once wholly in the hands of the United States.

"Brazil a few years ago produced nothing but coffee and sugar, and but a limited quantity of the first. To-day her coffee crop has reached nearly nine million bags, while present probabilities indicate that her southern section bids fair to become in the future a great cattle-producing zone.

* * * * * * *

"Not many years ago United States breadstuffs and provisions commanded the markets of Brazil and the River Platte and found an outlet there.

"To-day the River Plate Republics—the Argentine Republic and Uruguay—furnish more than 65 per cent of Brazil's importations of breadstuffs and provisions, and, in addition, compete with those of the United States in the Old World. The United States, having ceased being an exporter of breadstuffs to the River Plate, has become an exporter to the same countries of manufactured products, indicating the change taking place in the character of our production here at home. This changed condition is being continuously accented and augmented among us here in the United States.

"The logical result to be expected from these changes in the producing capacity of eastern South America, the shifting to and the extension of South America's consuming market in the world, was that banking facilities and steamship connections should grow up and extend themselves between the producing Republics and the points of greater consumption.

"These brought with them an interesting curiosity on the part of the Old World in the development of these new producing Republics, and this built up immigration toward the same Republics, which has continued and will continue. What I have said explains to me at least the existence of European and the absence of United States banking interests in South America and of steamship connections therewith.

"I am not one, however, who believes this condition of things will continue; on the contrary, I fully expect to see in the near future results showing that changes are beginning in the North and in South America which tend to increase the commerce between the latter and the United States. I think there are indications of this now, when, for

instance, I realize that our population is rapidly increasing and am told we have here 10,000,000 less cattle than we had five years ago, and personally know, as I do, how extensively and cheaply good beef cattle and sheep are and can be produced in the Argentine Republic and in Uruguay, I am quite prepared to consider the entire probability that within five years River Platte mutton and beef will be sold in the United States.

"On the other hand, judging from what I personally know, I shall be very much surprised if within that time many United States manufactured products do not wholly supplant in South American markets similar goods now sold by the Old World.

"Each of the Republics of South America has its own economic problems to work out, and all are, I know, desirous that both the Old World and the United States shall participate in the benefits which will follow the development of their natural wealth and possibilities.

"So far as the United States is concerned, I am convinced from my own observation that commercial acquaintance, now somewhat fitfully kept up between them and all of South America, will grow and widen rapidly within the next five years, and that as a result it will be but a short time until United States banking capital will turn toward several of the South American Republics, there to remain and become active leaven, which shall expand and solidify our commerce with such countries.

"These changes will create steamship connections under the United States flag, and will tend to bring the people of the Western Hemisphere into closer and better understood relations than those existing at present.

"As opportunities to make money by the development of land and mines and forests lessen in the United States, speculative and industrial capital and restlessness will, I believe, drift toward South America, and I fully expect to see the greatest proportionate commercial development during the next ten years located in the Antilles and in South America.

"Certainly great possibilities and opportunities exist in both localities. It must be understood that in what I have said, there is implied the continued existence and influence of stable, broad-spirited, and justly administered government in all of the countries to which I have referred.

"Without that condition no success can be hoped for or expected by any country. So true is this that it has become an axiom to say that peace, quiet, reasonable laws, good courts, and an honest public administration of affairs are the most alluring and attractive inducements any country can hold out to immigration, to capital, and to industry."

BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics will be treated under this caption in the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

"Suriname-Het Goudland der Toekomst," by O. E. G. VOSMAER, an historical sketch with map of the island of Suriname. HAGUE, A. J. DIKSTRA & Co.

The "Instituto Geográfico Argentino," of Buenos Ayres, has commenced the publication of a bulletin which contains the result of its labors and treats of scientific questions. The first six numbers have been published in one volume.

A pamphlet of about 60 pages called "Schetsen uits Mexico," in the Dutch language, from the pen of W. A. TERWOGT (Culemboro Blom and Olivierse), contains a series of stories and Mexican traditions; also a chapter upon the revolution in Cuba.

"Banks in Venezuela," being a printed statement referring to banking institutions, both national and private, is the subject of a report from Consul PLUMACHER, at Maracaibo, to the Department of State of the United States, which is contained in No. 575 of the "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports," issued by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce.

"Agricultural and Industrial Conditions in Parana" are extensively treated by Mr. EUGENE SEEGER, Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro, in a report to the United States Department of State dated October 17, 1899, which is contained in No. 572 of the "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports," issued by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Department of State.

"Breeds of Dairy Cattle" is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 106, prepared by HENRY E. ALVORD, C. E., of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. As indicated in the title, it deals with the various breeds of dairy cattle in favor in the United States, giving their origin and history, their leading characteristics, and milk and butter records.

"De Vrouw in Nederlandsch West Indië," published by the West Indian Commission of the National Exposition of Women's Work, collected by Jhr. L. C. VANHUIJS, is the title of a little volume upon women's work in the Dutch West Indies (Amsterdam, 1898—H. J. W. BECHT). The territory covered includes the islands of Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba, St. Martin, St. Eustaquio, and Saba.

"Cities of Paraguay," including Ipacarai, Paraguari, Carapegua, Tabapy, Quindi, Caapucú, Villa Florida, Villa Rica San Pedro, Villeta, Concepción Rosario, and Villa del Pilar, form the subject-matter of a report addressed to the United States Department of State by Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, from Asunción, under date of August 30, 1899. This report is published as No. 571 of the "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports."

"The Tasajo or Dried-Beef Industry in the River Plate Countries" is the title of a very interesting report forwarded to the State Department by FRANÇOIS S. JONES, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Buenos Ayres. The information contained therein was collected from personal observation and investigation by the writer, who gives numerous details as to the history of the industry, the methods employed, its relative national importance, market prices, labor, export valuation, and principal establishments.

In reply to remarks made in the "Sud-Amerikanische Rundschau," with reference to alleged discord prevailing among the German residents in Mexico, Dr. C. BELOW contributes to the "Deutsche Kolonial Zeitung" a gossipy sketch of the conditions as he has observed them in that country. He claims that the situation is not so bad as has been stated, and recites numerous incidents of the social doings of his fellow-countrymen in Mexico. He recommends a larger and stronger German Consular Corps and more frequent visits of the German navy in order to increase German influence.

According to the "Südamerikanische Rundschau," the importation from the United States into the Argentine Republic increased 48 per cent during the first six months of the present year. The importance of this is best understood when it is considered that a decrease is found to have occurred in the importations from other countries. (See MONTHLY BULLETIN for October, 1899.) During the second six months of this year the United States promises to exceed Italy as well as Germany, and in a few years will do more business with the Argentine Republic than does England.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN welcomes as an exchange the "Export Implement Age," a monthly journal published by the Nolan Publishing Company, of Philadelphia, Pa., which is devoted exclusively to the export trade in agricultural machinery, pumps, windmills, and farm supplies. The September and October numbers are at hand and present an excellent appearance artistically and typographically. The contents are printed in four languages—English, Spanish, German, and French—and among them are several well-digested articles upon subjects within the programme of the new publication.

"Historia del Desenvolvimiento Intelectual de Guatemala," by RAMÓN A. SALAZAR. Guatemala. The author of the work is the Director of the National Library of Guatemala and an historian of recognized merit. The book treats of the intellectual development of Guatemala, commencing with the first school of European letters and coming down to the inauguration of the National Institute of Native Indians in 1896. It is divided into chapters wherein is traced with a careful and conscientious hand worthy of all encomium, the intellectual advancement of the country from the culture dominating the first conquerors to the present-day status in science, art, and letters.

"The German Merchant in Brazil" is the title of an article in the "Kolonial Zeitung" by Dr. BORGIUS. He refers to the fact that South America is undoubtedly the world's market which is most sought after, and speaks of England and the United States as the important competitors of Germany. The reports of Mr. T. WORTHINGTON (recently published in full by the Bureau of the American Republics) are spoken of and the attention of the German mercantile world is called to them. A further reference by the author is to the recent annual report of Mr. STAMFORTH, British Consul at Rio Grande do Sul, from which he gathers much encouragement for German interests.

The September number of the "Revista Nacional," of Buenos Ayres, contains two interesting and well-written articles. One is "Haití y el Arbitraje de sus Fronteras," by A. POUJOL, of Port au Prince, which treats of the boundary dispute that existed for so long a time between Haiti and Santo Domingo and which was submitted for decision to Pope Leo XIII by the convention of July 3, 1895. The author clearly and entertainingly rehearses the history of this question from its incipiency, the text being elucidated by many notes and citations. The other article is the "Crónica Histórica Chilena desde 1802 á 1810," by SANTIAGO LEAL (JUAN EGAÑA), and is the third installment of a continued article upon the historical chronicles of Chile for the years named.

"Lecciones de Historia General de Guatemala," by RAFAEL AGUIRRE CINTA, published at Guatemala City, is an important work of this well-known Mexican scholar, an alumnus of the Normal School of the State of Vera Cruz, who has lived in recent years in the capital of Guatemala, devoting his time to teaching and delving into historical studies. His first work was entitled "Lección de Historia General de México," which was received with great favor. The present volume is illustrated with numerous engravings relating to the life and culture of the primitive settlers on Guatemalan soil, and depicting the present condition of the country, and contains portraits of distinguished persons of ancient and modern times in the Central American Republic beyond the Usumacinta.

Mr. L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER, of Port au Prince, has sent to "Petermann's Mitteilungen, No. 7, 1899," a description of a trip which he made in 1896 across a part of the Republic of Haiti, between Gonaives and Borgne, as a member of a scientific commission organized for the purpose of discovering cinnabar deposits. Although the principal object of that mission did not give the results expected, the commission obtained varied and new information concerning the topography and geology of Haiti. The existence of certain minerals was established and a topographic map of the country, formerly unknown, was prepared. The author contributes a further paper upon the geology of Haiti in "Petermann's Mitteilungen, No. 9," a sketch of the region between the Leogané Grand-Goave, Jacmel, and Bainet. The article is supplemented by a most excellent map of the district.

The "Kolonial Zeitung" of September 28, 1899, contains an article by Dr. M. GÜRKE, upon the importance of the ramie culture for the German colonies in Africa. For several years past the MONTHLY BULLETIN has noted the progress being made in this branch of agricultural effort, and much of what the author says has already been treated (March, 1894; May, 1894; June, 1895; October, 1896; May, 1897; September, 1897; January, 1898; June, 1898; September, 1899) in this publication. He states, however, that the failure to succeed in cultivating ramie in North America, Algiers, Egypt, Natal, Mauritius, Réunion, is owing entirely to climatic circumstances, and in reality the field for its culture is very limited, since there must be an equally warm and damp climate. It has been stated heretofore in the MONTHLY BULLETIN that the countries of South and Central America and Mexico are adaptable for ramie culture.

The "American Trade Index," issued in January last by the National Association of Manufacturers, has recently been republished in a form which will render it particularly valuable to Latin-American merchants, for, under the title of "Indice del Comercio Americano," a Spanish edition has been made which follows the plan and arrangement of the English volume. The purpose is to place in the hands of foreign merchants a convenient handbook which shall enable them to select reputable manufacturers in the United States in any lines in which they may be interested. The book contains a list of the members of the Association and the articles manufactured by each firm; also the cable addresses, and various other details of importance to dealers. Its distribution will be gratuitous, and is intended solely for the Spanish-speaking countries of the world, including Spain, South America, Central America, Mexico, the West Indies, and the Philippines.

A pamphlet has been issued under the direction of Dr. WALTER WYMAN, Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, prepared by Surg. H. R. CARTER, U. S. M. H. S., which treats of the "Shipment of Mer-

chandise from a Town Infected with Yellow Fever." The article is a valuable one, and in the event of another yellow-fever epidemic in the United States it is proposed to adopt the suggestions made into the form of regulations of shipments of freight from afflicted localities. These will allow without disinfection, or with practical—that is superficial—disinfection, the shipment of a considerable proportion of the merchandise most needed in the agricultural districts of the South, such as wholesale groceries, machinery, agricultural implements, salt, oil, etc., and thus impose the least possible loss on the section of the country quarantined, which can afford to wait for its "piece goods," etc., until frost. Indeed, except for the embargo on cotton bagging (jute) it would give such a district nearly all that it really needs during an epidemic in the city which usually supplies it.

In the "Deutsche Kolonial Zeitung" of October 12, 1899, Dr. BOYSEN-KIEL has an interesting article upon the trade between Germany and the Argentine Republic. He gives the statistics which have already appeared in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October last, and continues: "Of first importance among the imports from Germany are raw material and manufactures of textiles; then follow wines and liquors, chemicals, paper and paper goods, iron and ironware, glassware, etc. The increased importation of wines and liquors is chiefly of the ordinary grades in barrels, of which in 1898 there were 558,994 hectoliters, valued at 5,500,000 pesos. Owing to the increased production of the Argentine breweries and the high duty, the importation of beer has fallen off. Mineral waters also show a decrease for the same reasons. The keen competition which Germany has to meet from other countries in the Argentine market spurs on to the greatest effort. Besides England and Italy, it is the United States which is making progress, especially in iron goods, electro-technical goods, etc."

"De bemesting en het drogen Van Koffie in Brazilië (Amsterdam, 1898—J. H. DE BUSSY) is an exhaustive and valuable publication, treating in the fullest manner the subject of the production of coffee in Brazil. It has been prepared by Dr. F. W. DAFERT, Director of the Agricultural Institute of the State of São Paulo in Campinas, Brazil, with the assistance of ERNST LEHMAN and L. RIDININS. The volume contains numerous statistical tables and diagrams, explanatory of the most recent methods of treating coffee for the market, and also analytical statements in regard to the various qualities. Dr. DAFERT has further published in the German language, under the title "Ueber die gengenwärtige Lage des Kaffebaus in Brasilien," a lecture delivered by him in Amsterdam on March 18, 1898. Attached to and part of the pamphlet are the following maps and diagrams, colored:

1. Maps showing amount of land devoted to coffee culture in Brazil, indicating the condition in 1898.

2. Table showing the comparative world's production and prices in 1897. By J. F. DE LACERDA. 1897.

3. Graphic description of the production of coffee. By J. F. DE LACERDA. 1897.

4. Comparative statement showing the relation of crop to consumption and stock on hand of Santos coffee. J. F. DE LACERDA. 1897.

Dr. CARL SAPPER, the distinguished German scientist, references to whose works have frequently appeared in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, has contributed a most interesting article to the "Südamerikanische Rundshau" in regard to the coinage in Central America. He says:

"Since the foundation of the German Empire and of the unification of Italy there is no territory on earth containing a greater number of different States within a small compass than in Central America, as that division between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and Panama must be regarded. The entire territory originally belonged to the Spanish Colonial Empire, from which the British colony of Honduras (Belize) was the first to fall away (finally through the battle of St. George at the end of the last century), while at the commencement of the nineteenth century the various Spanish colonies fell away from the mother land and formed themselves into independent States. They all adopted the North American silver dollar (100 centavos) as a unit in their monetary system. However, since this silver dollar represented two of the old Spanish tostones of 4 reales so the most of these States retained the old reales and gave to the dollar (peso or sol) 8 reales of 12½ centavos, while others maintained the decimal system of 2 centavos to a real. "After Chiapas had finally seceded from the Central American Republic and had united with Mexico, the Central American Republic in 1839 divided itself into five different States, and, notwithstanding that many attempts have been made, they have never been able to unite. In view of the strong territorial divisions and the long-enduring political independence of the several States, as well as owing to the various commercial interests, a peculiar condition in the coinage obtains." Dr. SAPPER then explains in detail the situation in British Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Colombia.

Mr. MANUEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, first secretary of the Legation of Brazil in Washington, member of the Brazilian Academy and of several scientific institutions, has just published an interesting work under the title "Nos Estados Unidos—Impressões Politicas e Sociaes" (F. A. Brockhaus, Leipzig, 1899). This work, notable by reason of the cosmopolitan spirit and the sincerity evident on every one of its pages, is perhaps the most interesting that has been written up to the present time by a South American regarding this country, and shows intelligence, industry, and study on the part of the author, who, in the few years he has resided in the United States, has learned to so thoroughly

understand the American character and the mechanism of its political and social institutions. The work covers 524 pages, preceded by an introduction explanatory of the purposes of the book, which are no other than to make patent in Brazil, where "the United States are spoken of very well or very ill," the difficulty of the social problems and the grandeur of the institutions of the great American Republic.

The eleven chapters making up the work are as follows: The Negro Problem—The Effects of Immigration—The Characteristics of the People—The Influence of Women—Society—The Political Model—Catholicism and Education—American Writers—The Foreign Policy—The Relations Between Brazil and the United States—The Colonial Policy. There is also an appendix containing several notes referring to matters treated in the body of the work. This is not the first literary effort of Mr. OLIVEIRA LIMA, as he is already well known through his works relating to Brazil. The author has in preparation another book with the title "Ideas Fundamentaes da Politica Norte Americana," which, to judge from the way the subject in "Nos Estados Unidos" is treated, must be of the greatest interest.

"The Civil Law in Spain and Spanish America, including Cuba, Porto Rico, and Philippine Islands, and the Spanish Civil Code in force, annotated and with references to the Civil Codes of Mexico, Central and South America, with a history of all the Spanish Codes and Summary of Canonical Laws of the principal Fueros, or Ordenamientos, Councils, and Ordenanzas of Spain from the earliest times to the Twentieth Century, including the Spanish, Mexican, Cuban, and Porto Rican Autonomical Constitutions, and a History of the Laws of the Indies—Recopilación de Leyes de los Reynos de las Indias"—by Clifford Stevens Walton.

The above entitled work is now in press and will be issued about the first of the year. There are few persons so well qualified as the author to undertake a work of the nature of that cited. Mr. Walton is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, an associate of the Institut de Droit International, a corresponding member of the Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística of Mexico, a licentiate of the University of Habana, and has taken a course of law at the University of Madrid. During the Spanish-American war, Mr. Walton held the rank of major and paymaster in the United States volunteer service, and by reason of his legal attainments was detailed to act as legal adviser to the Governor-General of the island of Cuba, where he translated into English the civil code of the island. Though still a young man, Mr. Walton has had a varied experience in his profession which, together with his thorough knowledge of Spanish, peculiarly fits him to follow his literary tastes in the line he has marked out. He is also the author of several current articles upon international legal subjects.

The work cited will be a valuable addition to the library of all who are interested in Spanish America from a legal, commercial, political, or historical point of view. For sale by W. H. Lowdermilk & Co., Washington, D. C.

"Harper's Magazine" for October, 1899, contains a most interesting sketch of "The Ascent of Illimani," in Bolivia, made by Sir MARTIN CONWAY in the fall of 1898. A plane-table sketch survey of the west slope of the Cordillera Real from Illampu to Illimani, surveyed and drawn by Sir MARTIN from September 1 to October 31, 1898, accompanies the article and enhances the value of this most instructive paper. Incidentally he mentions a visit to the splendid Harvard Observatory at Arequipa, and describes La Paz, which he speaks of as "the proper capital of Bolivia" at some length. The ascent of the mountain was made from La Paz to a mean height of 21,200 feet above sea level. "No great town in the world," says the writer, "is so intimately associated with a mountain as is La Paz with Illimani." In returning to La Paz after making the ascent of the mountain some hours were spent at the temporary abode of Mr. BANDELIER, who was excavating for the National Museum, at Washington, D. C., the ancient villages and burying places on the flanks of the Illimani.

"During the course of our preliminary explorations," writes the author traveler, "we had come across several such burying places on the actual summits of the lower hills, and we had found two ruined villages and their abandoned but still recognizable terraced fields in a position most difficult of access, just at the foot of a glacier, a proof that the pressure of population in pre-Columbian days rendered necessary the cultivation of every yard of land that could be reclaimed and watered. Even the position of the canal that brought the glacier water to the field could be traced." In response to the question asked by Sir MARTIN as to whether the ancient dwellers on Illimani were Incas, Mr. BANDELIER says: "I do not know; I have no theories; I know nothing about Incas. All I know is that throughout Peru and Bolivia there were ancient inhabitants for whom I have no name—prehistoric Peruvians, if you like. These people left remains which exist, and descendants—the Indians we see about us. The remains show that there were great varieties of local habit and custom, whether the result of racial variety or merely different conditions of life, I do not know. * * * There are not facts enough discovered yet to warrant very general inferences. * * * The Indian to-day is very little altered by European influence. He carries a thin varnish of Christianity, but below it are all the pre-Columbian beliefs and superstitions practically entire. For example, the Indians here worship Illimani as a god, but they would not acknowledge to you that they did so."

Having successfully accomplished the ascent of Illimani, Mount Sorata next claimed the attention of this indefatigable traveler, and

the November "Harper" contains his description of this interesting and perilous undertaking, which, despite its manfully-met dangers, resulted only in partial success, for the eminent mountain climber and his two expert guides failed to reach the summit of this Andean giant by about 250 feet. Sir MARTIN, by triangulation with a 6-inch theodolite, discovered the height of the mountain to be 24,710 feet above sea level. After his failure it was with the keenest regret that the brave Briton turned his back upon the "stately pyramid that looks down on hot Tipuani and the deep, damp valleys whose streams roll over ungathered gold, and whose banks bear countless rubber trees of the finest quality in the world."

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———. Ancient Quarry in Indian Territory. Washington, 1894.
———. Textile Fabrics of Ancient Peru. Washington, 1899.
Boas, Franz. Chinook Texts. (Original translation.) Washington, 1894.
Dorsey, James Owen. Omaha and Ponca Letters. Washington, 1891.
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Memoria del Ministro * * * 1893. Santiago de Chile, 1894.
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Smith, Don W. A. Introducción del Salmón en Chile. Santiago de Chile, 1897.
Un Ferrocarril entre Chinches y Pueblo Hundido. Santiago de Chile, 1897.

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Paasche, H. Kultur- and Reisekizzen durch Nord- und Mittel-Amerika. Berlin.
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Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
Argentinisch Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
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British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York.
Coal Trade Journal. New York. Weekly.
Diario Oficial. Bogota, Colombia. Daily.
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Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
El Agricultor Mexicano. Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.
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Revista Brazileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
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Revista Mensual. Asunción, Paraguay. Monthly.
Revista Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
Semana Mercantil. Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.
Times (The). London, England. Daily.
Trade and Navigation Reports (Official). London. Monthly.
Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.

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Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. (Monthly.)
Boletín de Agricultura, Mineria é Industrias. Mexico, Mexico. (Monthly.)
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Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia. (Quarterly.)
Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. (Weekly.)
El Comercio. La Paz, Bolivia.
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El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.
Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. (Monthly.)
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Publications of the National Society of Agriculture of Chile.
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BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. NOVIEMBRE, 1899. No. 5.

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

LA LANA DE LA REPÚBLICA.

El representante del Gobierno de la Argentina en el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, Señor HERBERTO GIBSON, contribuyó á enriquecer el número de informes interesantes presentados á la consideración de aquel cuerpo, con un estudio sobre "El Producto de Lana en el Mundo y la Contribución de la Argentina." Por medio de estadísticas demostró, que de los tres distritos donde la producción de la lana excede á las necesidades locales—Australasia, el sur del Africa y las repúblicas del Río de la Plata: Argentina y Uruguay—en las dos primeras regiones se notaba una inmensa diminución de ganado lanar, mientras que en la Argentina y el Uruguay las existencias son aproximadamente 85,000,000 de cabezas en aquella y 17,000,000 en ésta, ó sea un aumento de más de 20,000,000 de cabezas en ambas repúblicas desde 1890.

De lo antedicho deduce el autor la preeminencia consiguiente de la Argentina como fuente de abasto para los telares del mundo, y calcula que la producción total de lana en aquel país puede suponerse hoy, por término medio, en 200,000 toneladas. El 90 por ciento de esta cantidad se manda á los fabricantes de Francia, Alemania y Bélgica, correspondiendo á la primera 42 por ciento del total, y el 10 por ciento restante se divide entre los mercados de la Gran Bretaña, los Estados Unidos é Italia. Tomando en consideración el producto argentino y el del extranjero que usan los fabricantes, se demuestra que la Argentina contribuyó con 3½ por ciento al comercio de la Gran Bretaña, 4 por ciento al de los Estados Unidos y 43 por ciento al comercio de Francia, Alemania y Bélgica reunidas.

El Señor GIBSON lamenta el hecho de que la lana argentina sea conocida principalmente en los Estados Unidos por el producto de las antiguas razas criollas que hoy se encuentran en las provincias del norte, de donde están desapareciendo rápidamente á favor de los adelantos hechos en los métodos de cría. Por muchos años se han venido importando á la República carneros de las mejores razas del mundo, y durante los últimos cinco años el 80 por ciento de las exportaciones de ovejas hechas por la Gran Bretaña ha sido comprado allí. Los Estados Unidos han contribuido con sus merinos de Vermont y la Nueva Zelandia con su raza "Lincoln," quedando demostrado así que los compradores de lana argentina obtendrán un producto de primera calidad.

Tres cosas, dice el autor, son de importancia capital para el establecimiento de un comercio regular en lanas crudas argentinas para los telares de los Estados Unidos, á saber: la presencia de representantes de los fabricantes en los mercados de lana de Buenos Aires; el establecimiento de comunicación directa por vapor entre los dos países, y el de relaciones bancarias directas.

FALTA DE FACILIDADES PARA LA TRANSPORTACIÓN DE CEREALES.

Según un informe dirigido últimamente por el Cónsul francés en Córdoba á su Gobierno, hay en la actualidad en los almacenes del ferrocarril que va de Córdoba á Rosario 1,400,000 sacos de trigo y de maíz; en los del Ferrocarril Central 560,000 sacos; en los de la línea que corre de Buenos Aires á Rosario 150,000 sacos, y en los del camino de hierro francés de Santa Fe 60,000 sacos. Toda esta cantidad tiene que ser transportada á Europa, y si á ella se agregan 8,000 toneladas que existen en granjas de particulares y una cantidad dos veces mayor en las estaciones intermediarias de los ramales ferrocarrileros, se obtiene una cantidad de cerca de 400,000 toneladas de cereales que, á falta de veleros y buques de vapor en que embarcarla, obstruye los puertos y las estaciones de arribo, impide las operaciones de tracción y almacenaje, y retarda la llegada de nuevos cargamentos del interior.

Las transacciones comerciales se parilizan ó se llevan á cabo bajo condiciones desastrozas para los agricultores, porque los exportadores rehusan comprar el grano á los precios corrientes, por temor de que continúe la escasez de embarcaciones y que esto les impida par largo tiempo satisfacer los pedidos que se les han hecho.

Los armadores cobran en la actualidad un promedio de 27 chelines, y se teme que al terminar la cosecha de maíz, cobrarán 30 chelines, precio verdaderamente excesivo, si se la compara con el que se cobra en otros países, ó con el de 15 chelines que prevaleció en la Argentina durante el año pasado. Se calcula que para transportar las 400,000 toneladas destinadas á la exportación, se necesitarán como 150 barcos. De los 100 vapores que llegaron á los puertos del río de la Plata durante los meses de agosto, setiembre y octubre, solamente 60 ó 70 pueden llevar

cargamentos de granos, y, en consecuencia, la próxima cosecha de trigo encontrará á la Argentina con 200,000 toneladas de cereales que no han sido exportadas, lo cual dará por resultado que se mantengan altos los fletes y que se aumenten los gastos del productor, pues se sabe que el exportador fija sus condiciones de compra según el precio de los fletes. La escasez de buques reconoce, según M. RENOZ, dos causas, á saber: la diminución en las importaciones y los altos derechos fiscales que pagan las embarcaciones en los puertos argentinos, bajo la forma de derechos de anclaje, de estadía, muellaje, etc.

El informe dado por el Cónsul francés puede ser útil á los armadores de los Estados Unidos, pues le ofrece un vasto campo explotable aun en épocas de cosechas ordinarias, pero mucho más cuando la producción de cereales es extraordinaria.

M. RENOZ también informa á su Gobierno de que un sindicato compuesto de veinte de los principales molineros de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, se ha organizado últimamente bajo el nombre de Sociedad Nacional de Fabricantes de Harina, y dice que el presidente de dicho sindicato, al contestar á una comunicación que le fué dirigida por el Ministro de la República Argentina en el Brazil, y relativa á la situación actual y al porvenir del comercio de harinas en el país de su residencia, se expresó de esta manera: "Aunque á primera vista se puede creer que, en presencia de la distancia que tienen que atravesar los barcos que llevan al Brasil las harinas de la América del Norte, nosotros gozamos ventajas en cuanto al flete, ello no es así, sin embargo, porque nuestros rivales envían con frecuencia sus mercancías en buques de vela, pagando fletes muy bajos, mientras que aquí, á causa de la gran abundancia de productos de exportación y á la escasez de buques, nos vemos obligados á pagar fletes muy elevados." Por esta carta se ve que los armadores de los Estados Unidos podrían extender sus operaciones en lo relativo á fletes para el Brasil, especialmente tratándose de la harina.

DEMANDA DE MANUFACTURAS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Los informes recibidos del mercado de Nueva York durante la semana que terminó el 28 de octubre de este año, indican que los pedidos de ferretería que se han hecho á este mercado últimamente son los más grandes de que hay recuerdo en la historia de este artículo. La República Argentina ha sido uno de los principales compradores. Se atribuye el aumento en esta clase de tráfico á los esfuerzos que han hecho los comerciantes de los Estados Unidos durante los últimos seis meses para vencer á sus competidores europeos que negociaban en gran escala con productos americanos.

Maquinaria eléctrica por valor de más de $13,000 y material también eléctrico con un valor de $16,000 fueron enviados á Buenos Aires en la época en referencia, y en los últimos dos buques que salieron con destino á puertos argentinos se embarcaron efectos de hierro por valor de

$53,000. También se remitió un cargamento de bicicletas valorado en $10,000, así como maquinaria é instrumentos para agricultura con valor de $150,000, alambre de acero por valor de $15,200, y tubos para calderas con un valor de $22,000, todo lo cual muestra considerable aumento en los pedidos. En cuanto á este último artículo, los ingleses habían tenido hasta hoy verdadero monopolio; y la exportación á la Argentina de efectos plateados, máquinas de escribir, materiales para carretones, válvulas, refrigeradores y pinturas, que hasta ahora había sido insignificante, ha aumentado de una manera satisfactoria. Entre los efectos para la agricultura que se embarcaron fué una gran cantidad de hilo de acarreto.

PRODUCTOS AGRÍCOLAS EN 1898-99.

El informe del Departamento de Estadística del Ministerio de Agricultura contiene datos provenientes de los diferentes distritos agrícolas de la República relativos á la cosecha de 1898-99. En las provincias de Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe y Buenos Aires se obtuvieron informes de 3,250 trilladores, y se calcula que en los territorios nacionales y en las provincias de Tucumán, Catamarca, San Juan, Jujuy, Mendoza, Rioja, San Luis, Santiago del Estero y Salta la cosecha de trigo ascenderá á 80,000 toneladas.

En los cuadros que vienen á continuación se verá la extensión de terreno sembrado de trigo y la producción de este grano y de otros de los principales productos en las cuatro provincias que rinden la mayor cantidad de cereales:

Provincias.	Haciendas.	Trigo.		Avena.	
		Hectáreas.	*Kilogramos.*	*Hectáreas.*	*Kilos.*
Santa Fe	12,483	1,126,273	868,187,668	879	799,144
Buenos Aires	11,469	668,379	801,354,201	11,109	14,577,868
Córdoba	3,992	483,321	447,821,455	226	105,426
Entre Ríos	4,682	216,555	199,443,842	249	307,333
Total	32,626	2,494,528	2,316,807,166	12,463	15,789,771

Provincias.	Cebada.		Centeno.		Linaza.	
	Hectáreas.	*Kilos.*	*Hectáreas.*	*Kilos.*	*Hectáreas.*	*Kilos.*
Santa Fe	2,531	2,133,047	95	52,387	131,344	92,482,709
Buenos Aires	6,282	7,107,494	808	870,928	47,861	45,956,377
Córdoba	449	408,355	45	32,637	52,035	32,897,336
Entre Ríos	1,072	1,377,683	140	157,125	18,828	11,739,202
Total	10,334	11,026,579	1,088	1,113,077	250,068	183,076,124

Había además 3,799 hectáreas dedicadas al cultivo de semillas para pájaros, de las cuales 2,122 estaban situadas en la provincia de Santa Fe, y 1,612 en la provincia de Buenos Aires. El producto total fué de 2,182,092 kilogramos. En la provincia de Buenos Aires 4,158 hectáreas fueron sembradas de alfalfa, y produjeron 590,956 kilogramos, siendo la producción total de la República de 608,200 kilogramos. Por lo que

hace á las lanas, un comerciante distinguido de Buenos Aires dice que las de superior calidad se han vendido en algunas partes del país por un precio más alto que en cualquiera otra época durante los últimos quince años, aunque en la estación pasada se exportaron 20,000 pacas menos que en 1897–98. Dichas pacas fueron, por lo menos, 20 por ciento más pesadas que lo eran antes, debido al uso de prensas hidráulicas para preparar la lana para la exportación. Estas prensas son hechas en los Estados Unidos, y aunque en apariencia ocasionan grandes gastos, las ventajas que del uso de las mismas se derivan pronto recompensan por el dinero invertido en ellas.

El citado comerciante asegura también que la diferencia entre la cantidad de lana exportada en esta estación y la que se exportó el año anterior es enorme, representando $5,000,000 más en valor. Los cargamentos para los Estados Unidos disminuyeron, pues se enviaron 4,000 pacas menos que en el año pasado.

NOTAS COMERCIALES.

Los delegados de la República Argentina al Congreso Comercial Internacional en Filadelfia, Señores COOLIDGE S. ROBERTS y JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, representante éste de la Cámara de Comercio de Buenos Aires, dedicaron el tiempo que se les había designado en la sesión Pan-Americana que tuvo lugar el 27 de octubre, á estudiar la condición comercial de la República con relación al comercio con los Estados Unidos. Para demostrar la posición que éstos ocupan en la vida comercial de la República Argentina, se hizo notar que durante el año de 1898, el valor de la exportaciones de ésta para los Estados Unidos alcanzaba á cerca de 4½ por ciento de su comercio total en este ramo, mientras que el 95½ restante correspondía en su mayor parte á Europa. Durante el mismo año el valor de las importaciones efectuadas por la República Argentina de los Estados Unidos alcanzaba á cerca de 10½ por ciento del total, lo cual en la opinión de los delegados no es una demostración favorable al comercio de ambos países. Las importaciones son necesariamente mayores en la República Argentina, pues al presente se encuentra en la imposibilidad de obtener hierro y carbón en cantidades suficientes para el desarrollo de sus industrias manufactureras.

De los informes oficiales del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos se deduce que las importaciones de la Argentina, por término medio, se calculan en $35 por cabeza al año, ó sea dos veces y media más que los Estados Unidos. En estas circunstancias, es digno de notar cuán débiles son los esfuerzos hechos por los Estados Unidos para conseguir mayor proporción de este comercio de importación. Una de las razones que cita el Sr. COOLIDGE para explicar la escasez de importaciones americanas en los países del Río de la Plata estriba en los métodos empleados para introducir y anunciar las mercancías. Otra razón es la falta de líneas de vapores con bandera americana que

vayan á los puertos del Sur, pues, según parece, durante el año de 1898 ni un sólo vapor con bandera americana tocó en los puertos del Plata.

En cuanto á las exportaciones, es bien sabido que la Argentina exporta grandes cantidades de cueros, lana, pieles de ovejas y de cabra, cerda, trigo, maíz, linaza, cebada, avena, heno, ganado en pie de todas clases, maderas, etc., á lo cual hay que añadir el aumento de las exportaciones de muchas de las excelentes maderas del Gran Chaco, entre las cuales se cuenta, como principal, el quebracho, que en Europa y en los Estados Unidos se emplea con grande aceptación en la química y la curtiduría. Las exportaciones de trigo y de harina para 1897–98 alcanzaron á 770,000 toneladas, y para 1898–99 los embarques se calculan de 1,700,000 á 1,800,000 toneladas. Los cálculos hechos, basados en los datos recibidos durante el primer semestre de 1899, indican que el comercio total de la República para ese año alcanzará á $293,000,000, oro. Las estadísticas para 1898 calculan el comercio de los Estados Unidos con la Argentina en $17,003,300, sobre un total de $241,258,358.

FOMENTO AL CULTIVO DE FRUTAS.

La Escuela Agrícola de Villa Urquiza, en la Provincia de Entre Ríos, acaba de recibir 500 olivos, venidos de España, con el objeto de hacer un experimento en el cultivo de dicha planta. Á fin de fomentar la industria de frutas, se ha presentado á la legislatura de la Provincia de La Rioja un proyecto de ley para promover el cultivo de las uvas, naranjas, nueces y aceitunas. Se trata de eximir á las viñas del pago de impuestos por un período de cinco años, á los naranjales por siete años, y á los olivares y plantaciones de nogales por ocho años. También se ofrece un premio por cada naranjo y olivo, siendo el límite fijado de cien árboles por hectárea.

BOLIVIA.

RIQUEZA FORESTAL Y MINERAL.

El Señor Don ENRIQUE WULFF, Cónsul-General de Bolivia en los Estados Unidos y Delegado de aquel país al Congreso Comercial Internacional, habló sobre los bosques y las minas de la República, que constituyen las principales fuentes de riqueza nacional. El Señor WULFF dijo que los bosques que producen la goma elástica cubren un territorio muy vasto, que queda entre los ríos Beni, Madre de Dios, Pivius y Aquiri, y entre la falda de los Andes y la frontera del Brasil. Exploradores notables están de acuerdo, en que estos bosques contienen una inmensa riqueza natural. Opina el Señor WULFF que en ningún negocio se puede invertir dinero con más seguridad que en plantaciones de hule ó goma elástica.

Al hablar de la riqueza mineral del país, el Señor WULFF dijo que

en el Departamento de Oruro hay suficientes minas de cobre para competir con las de plata del Departamento de Potosí, las cuales han dado á Bolivia el tercer puesto entre los países productores de metal blanco.

Las minas de estaño en los Departamentos de Oruro, Potosí y La Paz han contribuido notablemente en los últimos ocho años á suplir la demanda de dicho metal en el mundo entero. También se exportan en grandes cantidades minerales de bismuto y antimonio. Los depósitos de manganeso y hematites del Departamento de Tarija han llamado mucho la atención. Las minas y los placeres de oro se explotan con actividad en Bolivia, y no es una exageración el afirmar que todos los ríos de Bolivia contienen el precioso metal. La extensión de dichos placeres es maravillosa y su riqueza por yarda cuadrada puede compararse favorablemente con cuanto se ha encontrado en el Klondike. Cuarzos auríferos se hallan por todas partes en los Andes de Bolivia.

BRASIL.

NUEVOS DERECHOS DE ADUANA.

Los nuevos derechos de aduana del Brasil se deben en mucho á los impuestos en otros países á los productos brasileños, cobrándose el mínimo á los que admiten dichos productos mediante el pago de derechos bajos ó enteramente libres, y el máximo á los países que les imponen altos derechos. Estos últimos se aplican especialmente á Francia, Italia y Rusia, mientras que los Estados Unidos que no imponen derechos de ninguna clase á los dos principales productos del Brasil, el café y la goma elástica, gozan de los derechos mínimos. El trigo paga derechos, pero esto no es adverso los intereses de los Estados Unidos, porque la harina es el primero de los productos de su género que se importan de este país. Aunque esto puede afectar un tanto la industria harinera del Brasil, no implica una ventaja sobre la República Argentina, porque este país goza también de los derechos mínimos. El carbón continúa en la lista de artículos libres, y los derechos sobre los rieles son los siguientes: de $7.50 á $10.50 la tonelada de los de poco peso y de $2.25 á $3 los pesados.

Los derechos sobre los tejidos son muy altos, y los de algodón están divididos en tres clases generales, á saber: sin blanquear, blanqueados, pintados y estampados. Cada clase contiene diferentes calidades. Los derechos más altos sobre cada clase son como sigue: sin blanquear, por kilogramo, el derecho mínimo es $2.10 y el derecho general $2.85; blanqueados, mínimo $3 y general $4.20; pintados ó estampados, mínimo $2.25, y general $3.15. Los derechos sobre la madera se cobrarán por metro cúbico, que es casi igual á 35½ pies cúbicos. El derecho mínimo y el máximo sobre el roble son $8.25 y $11.55, respectivamente, y sobre el pino $2.32 y $3.37.

En la tabla siguiente se expresan los derechos sobre los artículos principales que se importan de los Estados Unidos. Se calcula que el milreis vale como 15 centavos, lo cual, aunque no corresponde exactamente con el tipo del cambio en Río de Janeiro, es casi exacto.

[Tonelada métrica.]

Artículos.	Mínimo.	General.
Harina de trigo	$5.25	$7.50
Harina	1.50	2.25
Maíz	4.50	4.50
Manteca de puerco	45.00	45.00
Puerco salado	30.00	30.00
Kerosene	10.50	15.00
Aceite para lubricar	6.00	9.00
Trementina:		
Pura	30.00	42.00
Cruda	15.00	21.00

EMBARQUES DE CAFÉ PARA HAMBURGO.

Hamburgo es hoy el primer mercado de café en Europa, y desde hace algunos años ha dejado atrás al Havre. En 1898 Hamburgo recibió del Brasil 1,565,000 sacos de café, lo cual, unido á los cargamentos que llegaron de Guatemala, Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Java, la India y el África, formó un gran total de 2,000,000 sacos. Como resultado de esto, los comerciantes y corredores de café componen una parte importante del comercio de dicha ciudad. Los corredores tienen su lonja especial en el Santhorquai, y también se reunen en la bolsa central. Una cantidad considerable del café que llega á Hamburgo es reembarcada para los Estados Unidos, pero de éste solamente una pequeña parte es producida en América. La tostadura de café es también una ocupación importante en Hamburgo, pero la maquinaria que se emplea para este fin en varios establecimientos es bastante anticuada. Se calcula que el consumo de café en Alemania es de 78 onzas al año por cabeza. Sin embargo, su uso aumenta rápidamente y, en consecuencia, Hamburgo está destinado á ser un mercado de café aun más importante de lo que es ahora.

El Señor VÉLEZ, Cónsul de México en la citada plaza, dice que la importancia del café mexicano en aquel puerto aumenta considerablemente, y que las cantidades introducidas en 1896, 1897 y 1898 fueron, respectivamente, 828,000 kilogramos, 1,199,560 kilogramos y 2,814,500 kilogramos. Con todo, en los primeros ocho meses de 1899 hubo una diminución en lo que se importó, pues la cantidad fué solamente de 702,950 kilogramos. Agrega el Cónsul que el café mexicano no es conocido como tal por el consumidor alemán, sino que se le clasifica entre las diferentes clases de café brasileño.

CHILE.

DESARROLLO INTERIOR Y EXTERIOR.

En la sesión del Congreso Comercial Internacional que se verificó el día 28 del mes próximo pasado, el Señor Don ELIODORO INFANTE, Encargado de Negocios de Chile en los Estados Unidos y Delegado de su país ante aquel cuerpo, pronunció el siguiente discurso:

"Habría deseado dar al Congreso Comercial Internacional una clara idea de lo que es aquella larga y angosta faja de territorio que se extiende estrechada entre la cordillera de los Andes y el mar Pacífico, y del lugar que ella ocupa en el comercio de las naciones. Desgraciadamente, la inclusión de mi nombre entre los oradores me toma hoy tan de sorpresa que sólo me será posible presentar una idea aproximada de la situación actual de Chile y de las perspectivas que ofrece al comercio.

"Chile, angosto y pequeño como aparece en las cartas geográficas, tiene un área de 750,000 kilómetros cuadrados, ó sea una extensión mayor que la de cualquiera de los países europeos, con excepción de la Rusia. La configuración de su territorio, que puede ser considerada como una desventaja bajo el punto de vista estratégico, es bajo todo concepto un don con que la naturaleza quiso favorecerlo, no sólo porque la extensión de su costa facilita é impone el desarrollo de su marina mercante y de su comercio exterior, sino también porque á causa de esa grande extensión contiene las más variadas riquezas naturales.

"El país comprende cuatro zonas:

"1ª. La zona mineral, que se extiende desde el extremo norte hasta el paralelo 27. La vegetación es allí nula ó raquítica y las aguas corrientes y las lluvias escasas; pero contiene en cambio ricas minas de plata, oro y cobre, yodo y bórax, y principalmente salitre (*nitrate of soda*), que por sí solo constituye una gran riqueza.

"2ª. La zona mineral y agrícola, que llega hasta el límite sur de la Provincia de Aconcagua. En ella se encuentra suficiente agua y valles feraces y la región entera contiene minas de cobre, plata, hierro, manganeso, plomo, etc.

"3ª. La zona agrícola, que se extiende hasta el paralelo 43, ó sea hasta la parte norte de la Isla de Chiloé. En esta región se desarrolla el gran valle central con suelo bien regado y clima benigno, más lluvioso mientras más se avanza hacia el sur; tierra rica y productiva, numerosos bosques, vegetación enérgica. Prodúcense en ella abundantes y excelentes cereales, legumbres, hortalizas y frutas, y sus vinos, que son de primera calidad, ofrecen ancho campo al comercio exterior. También se encuentran grandes depósitos de carbón.

"4ª. Zona de maderas y pesquerías. El valle central desaparece y la cadena de montañas de la costa se transforma en un archipiélago que comienza con la Isla de Chiloé y termina con la Tierra del Fuego. En

esta región existen valles adecuados para el cultivo y la ganadería; la lluvia es frecuente, la vegetación arbórea exuberante y hay abundancia de peces, mariscos, focas, etc.

"El clima de todo el territorio de la República es notablemente benigno y saludable; no hay excesos de calor ni de frío, ni enfermedades endémicas, con excepción de la viruela, que mediante la vacunación va desapareciendo á pasos rápidos.

"La masa de la población es de origen español. La raza africana no se conoce y la asiática tiene escasa representación. El número de extranjeros residentes en Chile no alcanza á 100,000, de los cuales sólo más ó menos 1,000 pertenecen á esta gran República del norte, á cuya iniciativa y hospitalidad debemos la feliz reunión de este Congreso.

"La organización política del país se basa sobre la Constitución adoptada en 1833, á cuyo mantenimiento y al respeto sagrado que ella inspira á todo ciudadano chileno, debemos esa estabilidad de nuestras instituciones que nos ha dado fuerza para el progreso y energía para el desenvolvimiento de nuestros elementos de vitalidad moral y material.

"Bajo el amparo de esta Carta Fundamental, la administración se ha desarrollado y mantenido en perfecto orden y corrección; la evolución progresiva de las instituciones políticas y sociales se ha verificado en condiciones de completa tranquilidad y con la cooperación de todos; la educación é higiene del pueblo y la instrucción en general han alcanzado un grado de progreso que nos hace alto honor. "En una palabra, todos y cada uno de los resortes políticos, sociales, administrativos ó materiales, cuyo concurso sistemático es indispensable para el desenvolvimiento de las naciones, han funcionado y funcionan con entera regularidad, sobre la sólida base que echaron los padres de la patria al darnos independencia y al guiarnos en los primeros pasos de nuestra vida de nación.

"Desearía presentar á esta asamblea algunos datos relativos al estado de nuestra hacienda pública, á la organización de los servicios de instrucción, de higiene, de beneficencia y de cada una de los ramos de la administración; pero desgraciadamente no dispongo de ellos en este momento. Permítaseme, sí, decir con respecto á la instrucción pública, que ella está al alcance de todos, que se basa sobre los sistemas más modernos y científicos y que numerosos estudiantes extranjeros concurren á nuestras Universidades, á nuestro Instituto Pedagógico, á nuestras escuelas militar y naval.

"Señores: la riqueza del suelo no constituye por sí sola el fundamento de la prosperidad de los pueblos. Se necesita, además, la solidez y estabilidad de las instituciones, y la paz interna y externa. Sin sólidadas instituciones, los problemas que afectan los intereses del país no pueden encontrar solución eficaz. Sin paz, todo se destruye y aniquila.

"Sin la solidez de sus instituciones, Chile jamás habría podido resolver los graves problemas económicos y financieros á que dió origen la circulación forzosa del papel moneda. Los poderes públicos, apoyados por la mayoría del país, verificaron la conversión metálica, operación que,

aunque produjo las perturbaciones propias de tan trascendental medida, nos volvió al régimen del oro, hizo desaparecer la crisis y nos dió bases de tranquilidad que redundarán en gran beneficio del país.

"Hubo temores de guerra á causa de nuestras cuestiones de límites con la República Argentina. Ambos países invirtieron ingentes sumas en la organización de ejércitos y marinas poderosas, consumiendo así buena parte de sus recursos. Felizmente prevaleció, como siempre, el buen juicio en las dos naciones y todas las dificultades han desaparecido, por medio del arbitraje de Su Majestad la Reina de Gran Bretaña y del distinguido ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires, Señor BUCHANAN. La Argentina y Chile gozan hoy de la más sincera amistad y las relaciones cordiales de ambos países están aseguradas para siempre.

"Resueltos nuestros problemas internacionales y solucionadas nuestras principales cuestiones económicas, Chile piensa hoy más profundamente que antes en el desarrollo de sus riquezas naturales y de sus industrias y en extender su comercio con los países extranjeros.

"Chile, señores, protege sobre bases lógicas toda industria que de una manera conveniente pueda establecerse en el país y hará cuanto esté en su poder para facilitar el estrechamiento de sus relaciones comerciales con otras naciones. Sus vapores llegarán muy pronto hasta Río Janeiro, por el Atlántico, y desde hace algunos meses llegan hasta los puertos de México, colocándonos así en comunicación estrecha y directa con las Repúblicas hermanas del Pacífico, aun con aquellas más lejanas como México y las Repúblicas centroamericanas, por las cuales Chile ha tenido siempre la más profunda simpatía. Antes de un mes esos vapores alcanzarán hasta San Francisco, y, de esta manera, Chile, con sus propios barcos, habrá añadido un nuevo vínculo á la amistad que filizmente lo une á esta gran República del Norte y un vínculo comercial, señores, que es el más poderoso de los lazos que pueden existir entre pueblos que desean desarrollar sus intereses comunes y cultivar su amistad.

"Señores: todo lo que contribuya al ensanchamiento de las relaciones comerciales de las naciones merece aplauso, y por esta razón, felicito sinceramente á los organizadores de este Congreso, deseándoles éxito completo."

LA INDUSTRIA DE SALITRE.

El discurso de Mr. JOHN A. MYERS, Delegado de Iquique ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, versó sobre la producción de salitre en Chile. Mr. MYERS trató el asunto tanto desde el punto de vista científico como desde el punto de vista práctico, y dijo que el salitre existe en grandes cantidades en las regiones áridas de Chile. El centro de esta industria es Iquique, ciudad de cerca de 30,000 habitantes. Se calcula que los depósitos de salitre cubren 220,356 acres y contienen 227,939,893 toneladas. Se asegura que la producción total ha sido la siguiente.

En 1884, 550,000 toneladas; en 1885, 420,000; en 1886, 443,000; en 1887, 702,000; en 1888, 779,000; en 1889, 903,000; en 1890, 1,009,000; en 1891, 877,000; en 1892, 804,000; en 1893, 938,871; en 1894, 1,082,285; en 1895, 1,220,000; en 1896, 1,092,000.

Según Mr. MYERS, las importationes de dicho artículo en los puertos de la costa atlántica de los Estados Unidos fueron como sigue: en 1897, como 98,750 toneladas; en 1898, cerca de 130,580 toneladas. Estas cifras no comprenden las importaciones por la costa del Pacífico de los Estados Unidos, las cuales aumentan cada día. Hasta el 1° de setiembre de este año las exportaciones á los Estados Unidos habían ascendido á 115,125 toneladas. Mr. MYERS asegura que 39 por ciento de la producción de salitre va á Alemania, 17 por ciento á Francia, 15 por ciento á los Estados Unidos, 12 por ciento á la Gran Bretaña, 10 por ciento á Bélgica, y el resto es distribuido entre otros países. El delegado de Iquique citó la opinión del Profesor E. F. LADD, de North Dakota, relativa á las condiciones del suelo del Red River Valley. Después de haber hecho un análisis químico de dicho suelo, el Profesor encontró que la cantidad de nitrógeno había disminuido de 8,000 á 10,000 libras por acre que antes era á 6,000 y hasta 3,000, lo cual ha reducido la cosecha anual de trigo. Á este respecto Mr. MYERS dijo que antes de mucho tiempo los agricultores del aquella sección del país, comprenderían que es más barato aumentar la producción de trigo por medio del uso del salitre que continuar su cultivo con un costo que va cada día en aumento, mientras que la producción disminuye constantemente.

ALICIENTES Á LOS INMIGRANTES.

Una de las dificultades con que Chile ha tenido que luchar siempre en el desarrollo de sus riquezas naturales, es la falta de trabajadores. En diferentes épocas el Gobierno ha hecho esfuerzos extraordinarios á fin de atraer la inmigración, pero, desgraciadamente, casi siempre han fracasado. No por esto, sin embargo, se ha desalentado aquella enérgica República sudamericana, y el Presidente ERRÁZURIS dirigió hace poco un mensaje al Congreso Nacional conteniendo un proyecto de ley calculado para aumentar la población en aquellos lugares donde la falta de habitantes se hace sentir más. Los puntos principales sobre que versa dicho proyecto de ley son los siguientes:

Se autoriza al Presidente para gastar dentro de un año la suma de £25,000, en la trasportación de trabajadores naturales y extranjeros, á aquellos lugares donde las necesidades industriales y las obras públicas lo exijan. También se le autoriza para que conceda en las provincias de Cautin, Malleco, Valdivia, Lanquihue y Chiloé, lotes de terrenos públicos de 50 á 100 hectáreas á cada padre de familia, y 20 hectáreas adicionales por cada uno de sus hijos varones mayor de 12 años. Esta disposición es igualmente aplicable á los extranjeros residentes en el país y á los chilenos.

En orden á gozar de este privilegio, el padre de familia no debe de haber sido jamás condenado por crimen alguno ó falta grave. Los chilenos deben probar que poseen un capital de $500 y los extranjeros de $1,000, hecho en el país por sus propios esfuerzos. Asimismo se autoriza al Presidente para gastar la suma de $200,000 en la debida preparación de los terrenos que se han de colonizar y para otras erogaciones que el cumplimiento de la ley exija.

COSTA RICA.

RELACIONES COMERCIALES CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El Honorable Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica en los Estados Unidos, se expresó en los siguientes términos, en la sesión del 28 de octubre del Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia refiriéndose á la rapidéz del desarrollo de las relaciones comerciales de las dos Repúblicas:

"Los honorables delegados han oido lo que los distinguidos caballeros de Costa Rica han dicho acerca de la gente, los recursos, el clima y las oportunidades que aquel país brinda al capital y á la industria extranjera, y de consiguiente acerca de la perspectiva que allí se presenta para un gran desenvolvimiento de las relaciones comerciales con todas las naciones á quienes nosotros presentamos nuestros productos en cambio de los de ellas, y á los hijos de las cuales Costa Rica ofrece con los tesoros de su suelo inexplotado, y la buena acogida de una población ordenada y respectuosa á la ley, los beneficios de un gobierno estable.

"Y en efecto nada puede ser más satisfactorio que referirse á este respecto al hecho muy notable de que Costa Rica no tiene hoy, ni ha tenido en ningún tiempo, reclamos por daños ó perjuicios causados por actos arbitrarios de sus autoridades civiles ó militares contra los ciudadanos de otras naciones.

"En cuanto al carácter del país, permítaseme que recuerde, entre otras citas autorizadas, lo que la Comisión de los Estados Unidos, enviada en 1884 á Centro y Sur América, dijo en su informe: 'El nombre de Costa Rica se encuentra muy alto como el de una república despierta á las exigencias de un pueblo progresista y amante de la libertad; sus instituciones y sus riquezas, su laboriosidad y adelanto, demuestran que es una nación con su frente hacia el porvenir y cuyo espíritu emprendedor la conducirá á la elevada posición que sus dones naturales, sus recursos y avanzadas ideas demandan.

"Innecesario parece decir nada más acerca de las garantías de que las personas y la propiedad gozan en aquel rico país, ó sea acerca de las oportunidades para la colocación de capitales ó para ensanchar por otros medios la esfera de nuestras actividades.

"Con respecto á los Estados Unidos en particular, el informe de la Comisión mencionada dice: 'Es un motivo de congratulación el saber que no solo aumenta el consumo de mercaderías americanas en Costa Rica, sino que hay un deseo creciente de establecer relaciones más estrechas, comerciales é internacionales con los Estados Unidos.' Sin la menor duda, la atención cada vez más fija de este país en la economía, industria y comercio de la América latina, ha encontrado ya una cordial correspondencia en Costa Rica.

"Esto era en 1884, y acerca de la exactitud de esta aserción, el volumen del comercio de hoy contesta con agradables evidencias. En 1889 el único país que superaba á los Estados Unidos en nuestro comercio de importación era la Gran Bretaña, y desde el año siguiente, 1890, los Estados Unidos tomaron el primer puesto an sobre la Gran Bretaña.

"Para satisfacción nuestra, la atención de un número considerable de opulentos hombres de negocios de este país que han comprendido que hay un vasto campo en Costa Rica, se ha dirigido hacia aquella República, y con especialidad en los últimos tres años se han empleado allí más de seis millones de *dollars* en empresas mineras y agrícolas, en plantas de luz y de tracción eléctrica, y en otras mejoras, con magnifica perspectiva para el crecimiento de los negocios de las mismas.

"Estas condiciones al presente, y la esperanza que abrigamos en el éxito de los trabajos de este Congreso, aseguran para el futuro mayor extensión de nuestro comercio y, por lo tanto, de las relaciones comerciales de Costa Rica con las demás naciones.

El desarrollo de las relaciones comerciales entre Costa Rica y los Estados Unidos sirvió de tema al estudio, que ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional leyó el Señor Don BENJAMÍN E. PIZA, Delegado de Costa Rica en la sesión del 28 de octubre de 1899. Abundan en este estudio indicaciones prácticas con referencia al progreso comercial, que si llegaran á ser adoptadas habrían de rendir grandes beneficios á los comerciantes de los Estados Unidos. Entre otras cosas hizo notar el Señor PIZA que mucho del aumento en el comercio entre Costa Rica y los Estados Unidos se debe á la corta distancia que separa los dos países, lo cual no sólo economiza tiempo y dinero sino que facilita el mejor conocimiento de ambos mercados. Agentes viajeros, por lo general alemanes, visitan todos los años á Costa Rica recogiendo cuantos informes pueden y aplicando en la práctica los conocimientos así adquiridos. Hace notar el Señor PIZA que los comerciantes europeos, y particularmente los alemanes, cuidan especialmente de satisfacer todos los deseos del comprador, hasta en los más ligeros detalles, llegando á poder manifestar en sus facturas no sólo el costo primo sino el peso bruto y neto, las medidas y los gastos ocasionados por cada bulto y hasta por cada artículo, lo cual tiene la ventaja de que antes de recibirse las mercancías, que generalmente llegan después de la factura, el comerciante haya podido hacer sus cálculos.

El embalaje de las mercancías, tal y como lo hacen los comerciantes americanos, no es á propósito para aquel país á causa de los derechos de aduana, por una parte, y por otra, no es suficientemente cuidadoso en el caso de artículos frágiles, que generalmente llegan en condiciones tales que sólo ocasionan pérdidas. El envío de agentes viajeros debe hacerse teniendo en consideración la habilidad del vendedor, pues de lo contrario se corren riesgos y se obtienen resultados contraproducentes. Un comercio bien dirigido, concesiones de crédito hechas después de maduro examen, dice el Señor PIZA, serán parte á facilitar el desarrollo comercial, ayudado esto por agentes viajeros que sepan comprender y apreciar los detalles del comercio y la manera de explotarlo.

Después del Señor PIZA, Mr. JOHN M. KEITH, también delegado de Costa Rica, hizo uso de la palabra y refiriéndose á las oportunidades que el país que representa ofrece para la inversión de capital, llamó la atención al incremento que han tomado las exportaciones de productos agrícolas, haciendo notar que en el ramo de plátanos, por ejemplo, en 1880 se hizo un embarque, por vía de experimento, que consistía de algunos centenares de racimos, habiendo llegado hoy las exportaciones de este fruto á más de 3,000,000 de racimos por año. El obstáculo principal con que ha tropezado el establecimiento de facilidades de transporte en la América española se debe á la discrepancia que existe entre el valor y la cantidad de sus productos. El tonelaje total del comercio exterior de Costa Rica, incluyendo el plátano, sólo alcanza á 30,000 toneladas por año, mientras que el valor total de este comercio se calcula en cerca de $10,000,000, oro americano. El comercio en plátanos ha dado por resultado el establecimiento de cuatro vapores semanales que hacen viaje redondo de los Estados Unidos, á lo cual se debe, en parte, el aumento del comercio general.

El comercio de plátanos no sólo ha sido ventajoso al tráfico de Costa Rica con los Estados Unidos, sino que ha extendido el de este país á toda la costa del Caribe y emplea más de 80 vapores, en su mayor parte propiedad ó bajo la protección de americanos, siendo notable el progreso que ha obtenido así el comercio americano en aquellas regiones. La agricultura prospera en todo el país y notablemente el cultivo del café en el distrito de Turrialva, que produce un fruto de excelente calidad y en donde un sindicato de Filadelfia explota la industria. No obstante que más del 80 por ciento del café de Costa Rica se envía á Europa, cerca del 50 por ciento de las importaciones de Costa Rica son procedentes de los Estados Unidos. El consumo de mercancías americanas en Costa Rica se calcula á razón de $7.50 por cabeza, contra un promedio de $1.40 en los otros países de la América latina. El comercio en ganado es una de las empresas más provechosas del país que tiene ventajas especiales de clima, suelo, etc., para la industria pecuaria, de tal suerte que ha podido establecerse con Cuba buen negocio en este ramo.

EFICACIA DEL SERVICIO DE PAQUETES POSTALES.

Uno de los escritos más interesantes leídos ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional, actualmente reunido en Filadelfia, fué el de Mr. J. M. KEITH, de Costa Rica, en el que se trata del servicio de paquetes postales entre su país y los Estados Unidos. Al hablar de las ventajas que este sistema produce, Mr. KEITH se expresó en los siguientes términos:

"Cáusame gran placer manifestar que el servicio de paquetes postales entre los Estados Unidos y Costa Rica, país que representó en esta ocasión, es muy eficaz. Nuestra convención de paquetes postales con los Estados Unidos data de abril de 1890. Antes de esa fecha nos veíamos obligados á enviar nuestros paquetes por medio de la International Express Company, que nos cobraba de dos á cinco dollars por cada uno. En la actualidad podemos enviar de Costa Rica á los Estados Unidos y viceversa un paquete que pese doce libras. Esto es de gran utilidad para los comerciantes, que se valen del sistema de paquetes postales para introducir novedades y mil otras cosas que no desean, someter á las tarifas regulares de las compañías de vapores. También es esto ventajoso para los extranjeros que pueden recibir sus presentes de Navidad y de cumpleaños, por medio de lo cual se establece un lazo entre ellos y los parientes y amigos que tienen en la patria. Sin el sistema de paquetes postales, les sería difícil gozar de estas ventajas. Cuando el Gobierno de Washington propuso la celebración de convenciones de paquetes postales con los países de la América del Sur, haciendo así á la colonia americana un servicio tan notable como pudo haberselo hecho con cualquier otro tratado, estableció un vínculo de unión entre los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos residentes en el país y los que vivían en el extranjero.

"Hay también en Costa Rica muchas facilidades para el despacho de aduana, tratándose de efectos que llegan en paquetes postales. Estos paquetes nos llegan de Nueva York y de Filadelfia en cosa de ocho días, y tan luego han llegado se les remite al interior, después de haber sido despachados en la aduana por un empleado designado al efecto. Por tanto, en el término de nueve días, á más tardar, recibimos nuestros paquetes los cuales si fueran por otro conducto tardarían en llegar de dos á tres semanas."

EL PUEBLO DE COSTA RICA.

Ninguno de los discursos pronunciados ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia durante los días pan-americanos fué escuchado con más interés que el del Dr. J. J. ULLOA, Cónsul-General de Costa Rica en los Estados Unidos. Al hablar del pueblo costarricense, el Dr. ULLOA se expresa así:

"Una de las primeras cosas que un costarricense hace cuando tiene alguno dinero disponible es viajar, y durante sus viajes, aunque siempre

dispuesto á divertirse, sabe sacar ventajas de ellos, tanto para sí mismo como para el pequeño pedazo de tierra del cual se siente orgulloso. Los extranjeros que van á Costa Rica expresan su admiración cuando ven que allí existen adelantos que no se conocen en países más viejos y más grandes.

"Las altas clases sociales son muy bien educadas, y hablan una ó más lenguas además de la propia. Entre ellas hay muchos hijos privilegiados de las artes.

"La raza costarricense es puramente blanca, y es notable el hecho de que todos los habitantes, en mayor ó menor escala, son propietarios. Estas dos condiciones explican su amor al trabajo y á la paz.

"Tenemos muchos edificios públicos grandes y hermosos. Tenemos teatros, iglesias, bibliotecas, hospitales y asilos, ferrocarriles, tranvías, carreteras, obras hidráulicas, luz eléctrica, un buen servicio sanitario, y, en una palabra, gozamos en pequeña escala de todas las comodidades de que goza Filadelfia.

"Nuestra población es de algo más de 300,000 habitantes, esto es, como la sexta parte de la población de esta gran ciudad, que, hace más de cien años, vió el esfuerzo más admirable y de mayor alcance que ha hecho jamás la libertad humana."

NOTAS ECONÓMICAS Y COMERCIALES.

El Gobierno de Costa Rica continúa los trabajos de preparación necesarios para llevar á efecto la reforma del sistema monetario de aquella república sobre la base de oro. La ley respectiva y una relación completa del proyecto se publicaron en los números de este Boletín, correspondientes á noviembre de 1896 y marzo de 1898, respectivamente:

"El término fijado para la conversión vencerá el 31 de diciembre del año próximo de 1900, y mientras tanto el Gobierno ha estado acumulando una reserva que monta ya á $3,000,000 en oro acuñado de la nueva moneda.

"El estado económico del país, dice el Presidente de la república en su último Mensaje, es actualmente poco halagüeño, pues no siendo posible que nosotros nos sustrajésemos á las causas que en todo el continente han determinado una depreciación de la riqueza pública, natural era que aquí también se hiciera sentir el malestar consiguiente á esa situación. Esta circunstancia, que se agrava con la baja del café, debía producir forzosa reducción en las rentas públicas y para no exponernos á sufrir un desequilibrio entre los ingresos y los egresos, el cual habría de comprometer intereses que no existían aun como elementos de vida económica, mi Gobierno creyó prudente introducir sin demora toda suerte de economías en los diversos órdenes administrativos, no conservando sino aquellos servicios que son imprescindibles para la buena marcha del Estado y para el logro de sus fines naturales.

"Las entradas al Tesoro, dice el Mensaje, incluyendo $1,136,822.50, por valor del dividendo de acciones ordinarias del ferrocarril Atlán-

tico que correspondió al Gobierno en 1898, alcanzaron á $8,413,198.80, en moneda de Costa Rica, y los gastos suman $8,060,655.05, quedando un sobrante de $352,543.75. El producto de las rentas de 1898 á 1899 es menor que el del año 1897 á 1898 en $10,905.50, y excede á la suma presupuesta en $343,450.72."

Durante los últimos cinco años el valor del comercio extranjero ha sido el siguiente:

	Importaciones (oro americano).	Exportaciones (oro americano).
1894	$4,113,223.66	$5,033,113.14
1895	3,851,460.34	5,188,401.78
1896	4,748,812.62	5,597,727.01
1897	5,460,944.51	5,474,773.50
1898	4,258,896.04	5,659,218.56

Quedando, como puede verse, durante ese corto período, un sobrante de $4,519,896.82, oro americano, en favor del país.

El comercio con los Estados Unidos que en 1894 representaba 33.64 por ciento de las importaciones, en 1898 se eleva á 44.80. No así con respecto á las exportaciones en que Inglaterra representa 56 por ciento, debido al alto precio que el café de Costa Rica, por su excelente calidad, mantiene en aquel mercado.

La cantidad total de las clases finas de este grano exportadas en 1898, suma 18,329,263 kilogramos, de los cuales se embarcaron para Inglaterra 10,821,076, obteniendo, según las revistas del Crédit-Lyonais de Londres, que especifican el precio á que ha sido vendido cada lote, un promedio general de 66 chelines por quintal de 112 libras, que equivale á $11.12, oro neto, en Costa Rica, por quintal de 46 kilogramos. Las clases inferiores compuestas de 1,156,862 kilogramos, las calcula la Oficina de Estadística como vendidas á 5 centavós la libra, en lo cual bien pudiera demostrarse que hay un recomendable pesimismo. En la exportación de 1898, así calculada, el valor del café suma $4,209,569.15.

El crecimiento en la producción de otros artículos de exportación viene en aumento en los últimos años. Durante el de 1898 se exportaron 2,331,036 racimos de bananos y se han plantado cerca de 3,000 manzanas nuevas de este fruto. La exportación de maderas y de metales preciosos crece también en proporción satisfactoria.

Debido á esta situación de los negocios en general, los tipos de cambio sobre el extranjero se han mantenido en Costa Rica en términos muy favorables, librándose el país de las dificultades graves que en otros se experimentan hoy. Han contribuido, en este sentido, oportunas medidas del Gobierno en previsión del desequilibrio que pudiera introducir la baja del precio del café, é indudablemente la reserva en moneda de oro y demás combinaciones encaminadas á la reforma del sistema monetario.

ECUADOR.

EL FERROCARRIL DE GUAYAQUIL Á QUITO.

En una comunicación reciente llegada de Quito, se asegura que el 16 de julio de este año se dió principio á los trabajos de construcción del ferrocarril que va á poner en comunicación á dicha ciudad con el puerto de Guayaquil. El contrato para la construcción de esta vía férrea fué celebrado con Mr. ARCHER HARMAN, de Nueva York, el 14 de junio de 1897, pero no fué aprobado por el Congreso del Ecuador hasta el mes de noviembre de 1898 (véase el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente á enero de 1899). Los empleados principales de la compañía son ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, mientras que la junta directiva se compone de quince ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, cuatro de Inglaterra y tres del Ecuador. Cuando esté terminado, el ferrocarril tendrá 350 millas de largo.

GUATEMALA.

RELACIONES COMERCIALES CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Las siguientes notas acerca de las relaciones comerciales de Guatemala con los Estados Unidos de América, fueron preparadas por Don ANTONIO LAZO ARRIAGA, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Guatemala en Wáshington y su Delegado oficial al Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia:

"Es un hecho hoy universalmente reconocido que nada acerca tanto á dos pueblos como la comunidad de intereses que nace del intercambio de sus productos, de la facilidad y baratura de sus comunicaciones y, en una palabra, del ensanche ó desarrollo de sus relaciones mercantiles.

"Bajo este, como bajo otros puntos de vista, puede asegurarse que los vínculos existentes entre la América Central y los Estados Unidos del Norte, fuertes ya por razones de vecindad, de analogía en sus instituciones políticas y de una buena inteligencia jamás interrumpida, tienden á estrecharse más, dia por dia, como lo acreditan las cifras, cada vez mayores, de su comercio de importación y exportación.

"En ese cambio creciente de los frutos de la actividad y esfuerzo de las naciones del istmo con la hermana mayor del continente, ocupa lugar no despreciable el que se refiere á Guatemala.

"No hace muchos años que los Estados Unidos tenían el quinto lugar entre los países de donde proceden casi todas nuestras importaciones. Desde entonces, lentamente al principio, con mayor rapidez más tarde, pero con firmeza siempre, el fabricante y agricultor norteamericanos han venido conquistando, palmo á palmo, el terreno que en

nuestros mercados les disputaban rivales poderosos, previamente establecidos en ellos.

"Ya en 1894 los Estados Unidos alcanzaron el primer puesto entre los países que nos envían sus manufacturas y frutos, obteniendo el 26 por ciento de las importaciones totales. Á la Gran Bretaña correspondió el 24 por ciento, y el 13 por ciento á Alemania.

"En 1895 las proporciones fueron: Estados Unidos 36 por ciento; Gran Bretaña 21 por ciento, y Alemania 23 por ciento. Puede notarse que en un solo año las importaciones alemanas y norteamericanas aumentaron un 10 por ciento, mientras que las de Inglaterra disminuyeron en un 3 por ciento.

"En 1896 las importaciones alemanas y las norteamericanas se mantuvieron casi en la misma proporción—22 por ciento las primeras y 34 por ciento las segundas. Las de la Gran Bretaña fueron de 23 por ciento.

"En 1897 la posición relativa de esos países en nuestras importaciones fué: Estados Unidos 33 por ciento; Gran Bretaña 21 por ciento, y Alemania 21 por ciento. Debo notar que en ese año las importaciones alemanas obtuvieron, por primera vez en nuestra historia mercantil, el mismo volumen que las inglesas. Esto demuestra que no sólo el competidor norteamericano, sino tambien el alemán, viene desalojando poco á poco de nuestro mercado al manufacturero inglés.

"Las cifras del año próximo pasado, 1898, comprueban mejor aun este aserto. La Gran Bretaña alcanzó tan solo el 18 por ciento de nuestras importaciones, mientras que Alemania subió al 24 por ciento, y los Estados Unidos al 39 por ciento, dejando así estos últimos muy atrás á sus competidores.

"La posición comercial de los Estados Unidos en Guatemala es ya, como se vé, muy envidiable, y sin embargo fácilmente podría ser mejor si el fabricante ó exportador norteamericanos dieran más importancia á las siguientes consideraciones que, aunque ya bien sabidas, nunca está demás repetírselas.

"1. La mercadería debe ser hecha, no según las ideas preconcebidas del fabricante, sino adecuada al gusto y necesidades del consumidor. Los manufactureros ensancharían sus negocios y obtendrían mayores beneficios si enviaran expertos á estudiar sobre el terreno los deseos, los gustos, las necesidades y hasta las exigencias del consumidor, quien es en definitiva juez soberano en la elección del artículo que se propone comprar.

"2. *Embalaje.*—El exportador norteamericano da poca ó ninguna importancia á este punto, que es de grande transcendencia para el comerciante centroamericano. Muy á menudo tiene éste que pagar derechos de aduana sobre el peso bruto de la mercadería, y desde ese momento se vuelve cuestión vital la del peso del empaque, etc. Nadie ignora, por otra parte, que mientras la mercadería europea llega á nuestros mercados en perfecto estado, por la manera cuidadosa en que

fué embalada y expedida, el artículo norteamericano es recibido allá con harta frecuencia—por culpa de su pobre embalage—en una condición tal que causa pérdidas al que lo pidió. El esfuerzo que en estos momentos hace el Museo Comercial de Filadelfia para enseñar el mejor modo de preparar y expedir las mercaderías destinadas al extranjero, es muy laudable y constituye un paso en acertada dirección.

"3. *Créditos.*—La práctica usual en este país de vender á corto plazo es enteramente inaplicable á los nuestros, donde el comerciante tiene que disponer de la mercadería abriendo créditos á sus parroquianos. Es casi imposible, pues, que él pueda reunir en tiempo oportuno los fondos necesarios para hacer frente á sus compromisos; y de allí que, ó se ve forzado á faltar á ellos, ó tiene necesidad de dar la preferencia á la mercadería europea, que se vende á más largo plazo y en condiciones que le facilitan el pago.

"4. *Baratura en los trasportes.*—Uno de los grandes obstáculos que el comercio norteamericano ha debido encontrar para su ensanche en los países del Istmo son los altos fletes, casi prohibitivos, que durante muchos años mantuvieron ciertas compañías de trasporte, que disfrutaban en la prática de un verdadero monopolio de esos servicios. Para ilustrar este punto, citaré un caso que, aunque parece inverosimil, no por eso es menos exacto. Un comerciante serio y respetable de Nueva York me decía, hace algún tiempo, que los fletes desde ese puerto al de Colón (Aspinwall) son tan crecidos que él, para disminuir los gastos del cliente, embarcaba algunas mercaderías para San José de Guatemala por vía de Liverpool! Debería, pues, en mi concepto, favorecerse el establecimiento de nuevas líneas de vapores que, por una juiciosa competencia, reduzcan los fletes á tipos racionales.

"5. *Facilidades bancarias.*—Es éste un punto que tiene más influencia de la que vulgarmente se cree, en el volumen de las transacciones comerciales internacionales y, tratándose de los negocios mercantiles de Guatemala con los Estados Unidos, la cuestión es más grave aun si se tiene en cuenta que la mayor parte de nuestro café—el principal de nuestros artículos de exportación—la vendemos en Alemania é Inglaterra y que, por consiguiente, nos vemos obligados á pagar la mercadería norteamericana con giros sobre Hamburgo ó Londres, que dejan á los banqueros de aquellas plazas un beneficio que debía corresponder á los norteamericanos, si los Estados Unidos nos proporcionaran las mismas facilidades bancarias.

"Otras muchas indicaciones útiles podrían hacerse sobre el particular, pero las omitiré hoy en gracia de la brevedad, para no dar á este trabajo demasiada extensión. Diré solamente que ellas han sido consignadas en detalle en numerosas publicaciones de carácter oficial ó privado y repetidas en el periódico que sirve de órgano á la asociación de manufactureros de este país.

"Hace cuatro ó cinco años los precios del café eran tan elevados, que determinaron un estado de prosperidad general tanto en Centro

América como en los demás países productores de ese grano. Nuestros pueblos disfrutaban de bienestar y comodidades raras veces obtenidos: El trabajo abundaba; la tierra rendía opimos frutos; el agricultor ensanchaba sus plantaciones; el negociante importaba del extranjero mercaderías en cantidad no acostumbrada; las importaciones y exportaciones doblaban y aun triplicaban su monto anual y, en una palabra, el comercio, vivificado por una agricultura floreciente, se desarrollaba con rapidéz antes no vista.

"Pero esos mismos altos precios del café estimularon poderosamente la producción, haciéndola mayor que el consumo del precioso grano, y desde entonces áquellos han venido disminuyendo, y efectando en consecuencia el volumen de las transacciones mercantiles de todos aquellos países que tienen el café como su principal artículo exportable.

"Guatemala no podía ser una excepción, y su comercio en los últimos tres años ha debido resentir los efectos del fenómeno apuntado; pero ellos son, afortunadamente, de carácter transitorio y nos dejarán el beneficio permanente de habernos hecho sentir la necesidad de tener una producción variada, que ya empuja á nuestro pueblo por saludables derroteros. En nuestros campos se inician nuevos y prometedores cultivos, como el del hule ó caucho, la vainilla, etc., y se atiende mejor á otros antes descuidados, como el del tabaco, cacao, bananas y demás frutos tropicales.

"El equilibrio de nuestra producción y consumo, momentáneamente alterado, quedará de ese modo restablecido; las operaciones mercantiles recobrarán pronto—así lo espero—su actividad habitual, y nuestros mercados seguirán ofreciendo al manufacturero norteamericano el vasto campo que prometen países nuevos, vírgenes aun, que solo esperan para su desarrollo la energía del inmigrante europeo, á quien acogemos con cariño en nuestras playas, y la acción fecunda del capital extranjero, que realizará seguramente halagadoras ganancias en provechosas empresas.

"Rico es nuestro suelo y adaptable á numerosas y variadas producciones; suave es nuestro clima y perfectamente adecuado para las razas blancas; nuestras leyes son claras, liberales y avanzadas; nuestro pueblo es pacífico, laborioso y progresista; nuestras instituciones políticas y sociales son análogas á las de otros países cultos; nuestro sistema de educación popular, que descansa en la ancha base de la escuela laica, obligatoria y gratuita, extiende su benéfica influencia tanto á las ciudades y pueblos de importancia como á los caseríos y aldeas más remotas; nuestros colegios y universidades emplean los mejores métodos y se organizen teniendo en mira los modelos más recomendables; nuestras vías de comunicación se aumentan de año en año con nuevas carreteras, ferrocarriles y líneas de vapores; nuestras poblaciones, iluminadas varias de ellas por la luz eléctrica y gozando de las ventajas de un amplio y barato servicio telefónico, están ligadas todas por extensa red telegráfica que las pono en inmediata relación con el mundo entero; el deseo de mejorar, en una palabra, es innato en

mis conciudadanos y, con tan buenos elementos, confiamos en el porvenir y abrigamos fundados esperanzas de un bienestar y prosperidad permanentes, que nos permitirán realizar en paz nuestro destino y ofrecer amplios horizontes al capital y al trabajo de los pueblos con los cuales vivimos en íntimo contacto y en amistosas relaciones."

MÉXICO.

DESARROLLO COMERCIAL.

El Señor Don SALVADOR H. ECHEGARAY, uno de los Delegados de México al Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, pronunció un discurso que fué escuchado con mucha atención, por contener informes muy útiles para los comerciantes y exportadores de los Estados Unidos. Dijo el Señor ECHEGARAY que durante la administración de Presidente DÍAZ México ha gozado de perfecta paz, lo cual ha hecho posible la construcción de 10,000 millas de ferrocarril, la mejora de los puertos, el desarrollo general del país y el aumento de la riqueza pública. Las importaciones en el año económico de 1874–75 no alcanzaron á $19,000,000 mexicanos, mientras que en el último año económico ascendieron á $106,285,307, lo cual es un aumento de cerca de 600 por ciento. Las exportaciones en 1875 fueron de $27,318,788 mexicanos, y en el último año ascendieron á $138,478,137 mexicanos—un aumento de 500 por ciento. Los principales artículos importados en México son los siguientes:

Maquinaria	$16, 775, 562	Tejidos de lana	$3, 877, 971
Tejidos de algodón	12, 292, 190	Papel y sus manufacturas	3, 841, 244
Hierro y acero	11, 920, 291	Fibras textiles	2, 541, 878
Vinos y licores	5, 590, 984		

Los principales productos exportados en el último año económico fueron—

Plata	$66, 431, 541	Plomo	$3, 786, 144
Henequén	18, 711, 325	Cobre	4, 135, 613
Oro	8, 843, 081	Cueros	3, 646, 915
Café	7, 936, 908	Maderas preciosas	1, 896, 908
Ganado	4, 918, 572	Raíz de zacatón	1, 055, 669

El comercio exterior de México en los últimos siete años ha sido el siguente:

Comercio de México, años económicos de 1892 á 1899.

Años.	Importaciones (valor declarado en oro).			Exportaciones (valor declarado en plata).		
	De los Estados Unidos.	De los otros países.	Total.	Á los Estados Unidos.	Á los otros países.	Total.
1892–93	$26, 235, 963	$17, 177, 168	$43, 413, 131	$63, 791, 741	$23, 717, 466	$87, 509, 297
1893–94	14, 351, 785	15, 935, 704	30, 287, 489	60, 660, 243	18, 683, 044	79, 343, 287
1894–95	15, 130, 367	18, 870, 073	34, 000, 440	67, 322, 986	23, 531, 967	90, 854, 953
1895–96	20, 145, 763	22, 108, 175	42, 253, 938	79, 651, 695	25, 365, 207	105, 016, 902
1896–97	22, 593, 869	19, 610, 235	42, 204, 095	86, 742, 951	24, 603, 543	111, 346, 494
1897–98	21, 490, 604	22, 112, 888	43, 603, 492	94, 974, 616	33, 998, 133	128, 972, 749
1898–99	24, 164, 687	26, 704, 507	50, 869, 194	103, 553, 486	34, 924, 651	138, 478, 137
Total	144, 113, 029	142, 518, 750	286, 631, 779	556, 697, 718	184, 824, 011	741, 521, 729

Según el Señor ECHEGARAY, el aumento en la demanda de géneros de algodón en México ha producido poco efecto sobre las importaciones de este artículo, porque las fábricas nacionales bastan para suplir dicha demanda, pues hay actualmente en la República 125 fábricas de esta clase, y muchas más están en construcción. Se fabrica en México excelente cerveza. También se hace muy buen papel blanco. Hay numerosos fundiciones.

Al hablar de los productos minerales de México, el Señor ECHEGARAY manifestó que su país, que en años pasados había ocupado el segundo lugar como productor de plata, teniendo los Estados Unidos el primero, fué él que produjo la mayor cantidad de dicho metal en el año 1897–98. Como productor de oro ocupa México el cuarto lugar; como productor de plomo el quinto, y como productor de cobre el sexto. Asegura el Señor ECHEGARAY que dentro de cuatro años la exportación de cobre será dos veces mayor, porque existen muchas minas de dicho metal. En cuanto al comercio extranjero, lo divide por países el Señor ECHEGARAY de la manera siguiente:

AÑO ECONÓMICO DE 1898–99.

Países.	Importaciones (valor declarado en oro).	Exportaciones (valor declarado en pesos mexicanos).
Alemania	$5,677,925	$4,020,307
España	2,969,936	1,172,948
Francia	5,929,292	6,252,293
Inglaterra	9,592,797	14,100,928
Italia	380,889	34,952
Bélgica	707,408	2,577,688
Estados Unidos	24,164,687	103,553,486
Cuba	24,205	5,257,884
Otros países	1,431,055	1,507,651
Total	50,869,194	138,478,137

La importación de mercancías americanas durante el año económico de 1898–99 fué como sigue:

[Efectos clasificados de conformidad con el Arancel de Aduanas de México. Valor declarado en pesos mexicanos.]

Industria animal	$1,619,706
Productos agrícolas	5,054,116
Metales y sus manufacturas	7,335,447
Tejidos	1,131,230
Productos químicos, drogas, aceites y pinturas	846,653
Vinos, licores, bebidas fermentadas y no fermentadas	272,246
Papel y sus manufacturas	521,689
Maquinaria y aparatos	4,826,291
Carruajes	934,590
Armas y substancias explosivas	961,295
Artículos diversos	661,424
Total	24,164,687

La exportación de mercancías de los Estados Unidos á México, que en 1888 tuvo apenas un valor de $10,000,000, ascendió en el último año económico á cerca de $24,000,000, lo cual es un aumento de 140 por ciento. México le compra á los Estados Unidos más que Italia, Rusia ó España, más que China ó Japón, y más que cualquier país de América, con excepción del Canadá. Como consumidor de efectos de los Estados Unidos, México ocupa el séptimo lugar. Las facilidades de transporte entre México y los Estados Unidos son muchas, y un comerciante de Filadelfia puede ir á la ciudad de México en vías férreas de primera clase y regresar en el término de diez días, con un costo de $200. Los medios de comunicación interior de México son también de gran importancia. Hay cuatro ferrocarriles que unen la República con los Estados Unidos, y por medio de ellos entran á México cada año 35,000 carros cargados de mercancías; otras cuatro líneas unen la costa del Atlántico con las grandes ciudades de la mesa central; otras líneas penetran en las regiones meridionales; una atraviesa el istmo de Tehuantepec, y hay varias en la península de Yucatán.

Desde hace algunos años el Gobierno se ocupa activamente en la construcción de buenos puertos en ambos océanos y en el establecimiento de faros. Hay 68,250 kilometros de telégrafos y 2,457 oficinas de correos. Ambos servicios son excelentes. Existe el sistema de giros postales y telegráficos en el país, y pronto se establecerá con los Estados Unidos, haciéndolo así internacional.

Terminó el Señor ECHEGARAY su discurso manifestando que, como en los últimos diez años las rentas de la nación han excedido á los gastos, hay un superávit en la tesorería, el cual el año pasado fué de más de cinco millones de pesos.

RIQUEZA MINERAL Y AGRÍCOLA DE TAMAULIPAS.

El Dr. ABRAHAM DÍAZ, Representante del Estado de Tamaulipas en el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, describió las condiciones agrícolas y minerales de aquella sección de México del modo siguiente:

"La zona del cobre es el mombre que puede darse á aquella sección de las montañas de San Carlos, distrito de San Carlos, donde el metal se encuentra en más ó menos abundancia por todas partes. En San José, á tres kilometros de San Carlos, hay una compañía que explota con muy buen éxito minas de cobre, cuyos productos son tan ricos, que el negocio aumenta de día en día, de suerte que en la actualidad figura entre las más importantes empresas mineras de México. La zona de plomo está situada en las mismas montañas y en el mismo distrito de San Carlos. El mineral produce generalmente de 60 á 70 y hasta 80 por ciento de plomo, y de 60 á 80 onzas de plata por tonelada. Los minerales contienen también suficiente hierro para que valga la pena de fundirlos, y los hay que rinden 1,200 onzas de plata por tonelada.

"Además de la riqueza mineral, existe un valle muy fértil de más de

de 4,500 millas cuadradas, que se adapta en la parte del norte al cultivo de algodón, maíz, caña de azúcar, naranjas, uvas, patatas, etc., y en la sección central y meridional, al cultivo del arroz, café, vainilla, piñas, plátanos, goma elástica y cocos."

RECURSOS DEL ESTADO DE JALISCO.

La Cámara de Comercio de Guadalajara estuvo representada en el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia por el Señor Don CARLOS BASAVE DEL CASTILLO NEGRETE, quien, en un discurso que pronunció el 28 de octubre próximo pasado, describió los recursos del estado de Jalisco del modo siguiente:

"El Estado de Jalisco ha sido siempre el principal productor de granos en el país, y la producción aumenta cado año. La variedad de sus productos es muy grande, debido á la diversidad de climas que en el se encuentra, y cuando se haya establecido la comunicación por ferrocarril con la costa de la Pacífico, será explorado en toda su extención y su desarrollo será más aparente. Una de las mayores ventajas que ofrece es la abundancia de agua y la regularidad de las cosechas. El agua, que sirve para riego y que forma numerosas cascadas, es una fuente de riqueza como fuerza motriz para las grandes fábricas que van á ser construidas, y alrededor de las cuales se formarán importantes centros de población. Contamos, dijo el Señor BASAVE, con varios millares de caballos de fuerza, que pueden obtenerse á muy poco costo, y tengo en mi poder los informes necesarios con el fin de hacer una invitación formal á los hombres de negocios que se interesan especialmente en el asunto."

COMPAÑÍA DE FUERZA MOTRIZ.

El periódico "The Two Republics," que se publica en la ciudad de México, dice que el 25 de agosto de este año se completó la organización de una de las compañías más importantes que jamás han hecho negocios en la República. Dicha corporación es conocida con el nombre de "La Compañía Mexicana de Fuerza Motriz." De conformidad con el artículo 170 del Código de Comercio, el capital social ha sido pagado en su totalidad. Este capital que asciende á la suma de $10,000,000 mexicanos, fué suscrito en Londres, Nueva York, Filadelfia y México. Una de las circunstancias más favorables relacionadas con esta nueva corporación es la gran cantidad de capital mexicano interesado en los negocios, pues, como es bien sabido, en México se obra con mucha cautela en asuntos de esta índole.

Para formarse una idea de la magnitud de esta empresa, basta saber que ha adquirido el derecho de usar las cascadas en ocho de los más ricos estados de la república. Las más importantes de estas cascadas son las del río Blanco, en el estado de Veracruz, por donde pasa un ferrocarril, y las cuales son accesibles de muchos puntos. Los trabajos en estas cascadas van á comenzar sin tardanza. Se han

celebrado ya contratos por más de 7,500 caballos de fuerza con fabricantes de los Estados Unidos y el Canadá, que van á establecer manufacturas cerca de dichas cascadas. La compañía dispone en todo de algo así como 150,000 caballos de fuerza, que se emplearán en su totalidad, porque el dinero para esta gran empresa puede obtenerse fácilmente.

Desde luego se comprende que el objeto de la compañía es fundar en toda la república fábricas con capitales extranjeros, principalmente de los Estados Unidos, y proveer de fuerza motriz á un costo mínimo á las industrias locales. La compañía ha obtenido concesiones liberales del Gobierno, y en vista de la importancia de la empresa, goza de mucho favor.

NICARAGUA.

RIQUEZAS Y ADELANTOS DEL PAIS. LA RUTA DEL FUTURO CANAL INTEROCEÁNICO.

El discurso que pronunció el Señor Don Luis F. Corea, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua en los Estados Unidos, ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, durante la sesión pan americana que tuvo lugar el día 28 de octubre, versó principalmente sobre las riquezas y adelantos de su país, que está destinado á ser el centro del comercio universal cuando se haya abierto el canal interoceánico por su territorio.

El Ministro se expresó como sigue:

"Señor Presidente, Señoras, Caballeros: Es para mí un gran placer presentarme ante un distinguido y culto auditorio para referirme á un tema tan agradable como el de 'Nicaragua en Centro América.' Es un honor que verdaderamente aprecio.

"Centro América, como todos vosotros bien sabeis, comprende las cinco Repúblicas del Istmo. Guatemala en el Norte; Honduras, El Salvador y Nicaragua en el Centro, y Costa Rica en el Sur. Son el anillo que une dos grandes continentes—la débil barrera en la que dos poderosos océanos luchan y rugen en estéril esfuerzo por entrar cada uno en el dominio del otro. La naturaleza formuló allí la comunicación de las aguas; mas cuando ya estaba para concluir su tarea, suspendió el trabajo. Esperemos, no obstante, que aunque ella se mostró remisa, la mano del hombre realizara el propósito; y entonces, con el canal interoceánico, Nicaragua, Centro América, será no solamente el centro geográfico del nuevo hemisferio, sino también el centro comercial del mundo entero.

"En Guatemala es donde una vez fué el asiento del antiguo Gobierno español en el istmo, y donde hay aun algunos remotos descendientes de los nobles de Castilla. Es un país rico, bello y culto.

"Honduras tiene más riquezas naturales; en sus montañas y en sus extensas llanuras se encuentran acumuladas.

"El Salvador, reducido en área, es uno de las más poblados de los países del mundo con relación á la milla cuadrada. Su ingenioso pueblo ha vencido las necesidades provenientes de la pequeñez de territorio, heróicamente y bien.

"Costa Rica reune las fuentes de riqueza que la naturaleza le ha prodigado á la economía y laboriosidad de sus habitantes.

"Pero Nicaragua, perdónese que lo diga con orgullo, además de la belleza de sus panorámicas vistas, sus hermosos lagos é imponentes volcanes, la riqueza de su territorio, la salubridad de su clima y la hospitalidad de su pueblo, tiene el asiento del Canal de Nicaragua que, concluido, hará de ella, comercialmente hablando, la Señora del Oeste. Para el efecto cuenta hoy también con elementos y ventajas que reseñaré brevemente á fin de no abusar de la bondad de tan amable auditorio.

"Aunque su posición geográfica es tropical, Nicaragua goza de un clima moderado. La temperatura máxima es en septiembre, que llega como á 89.5 grados; y la mínima en enero y noviembre, que fluctua entre 70 y 71 grados, siendo el promedio al año de 75 á 79 grados. Estos datos son tomados de las observaciones meteorológicas hechas en San Juan del Sur. En las regiones más elevadas del Pacífico el termómetro puede bajar hasta 65 grados y nunca sube más allá de 90. Aun en los días más caluroros jamás se experimenta sensación alguna de opresión ó debilidad en las regiones elevadas. No se conocen el granizo, la nieve ni la escarcha; pero tampoco se conocen los huracanes ni los tornados.

"La salubridad del clima no tiene rival, y basta prestar la atención que de ordinario debe darse á las leyes higiénicas, para gozar allí de una salud tan perfecta como en cualquier otra parte del mundo. Un oficial de marina, al mando de un buque de guerra estacionado durante cinco meses en la costa de Nicaragua, manifestó en un informe que ni un solo hombre de la tripulación á su mando había muerto, ni tuvo nunca más de cuatro enfermos á la vez.

"El Almirante WALKER, Presidente de la Comisión del Canal del Istmo, manifiesta que de los 500 hombres que por muchos meses estuvieron ocupados en los trabajos de mensura en las ciénegas, en busca de lugar para el canal, ni murió ninguno, ni se presentaron más casos de fiebres palúdicas ó de otros caracteres, que los que podrían haberse presentado en los terrenos bajos del estado de Virginia. En Nicaragua jamás hay fiebre amarilla y las calenturas, peculiares al país, ceden fácilmente al tratamiento.

"Políticamente hablando, Nicaragua goza de la prosperidad que trae la paz y un gobierno estable. Los liberales han demostrado su habilidad para gobernar sabiamente con justicia y economía.

"El crédito del Gobierno en el mercado de Londres se cotiza más alto que el de ningún otro de sus vecinos de Centro América y es superado solamente por el de uno de los de Sur América, que es el de Chile.

"Otro hecho importante que habla bien del país y su Gobierno es el grado de prosperidad de que también gozan las colonias extranjeras que tienen negocios y aprecian la protección y garantías que oficialmente se les dispensan.

"La Iglesia y el Estado estan separados y le religión es tan libre como el aire que respiramos.

"El sistema de instrucción pública es excelente. Por más de veinte años ha estado bajo la dirección del Gobierno que la paga hoy preferente atención y gasta cerca de un diez por ciento de las entradas en su mantenimiento y desarrollo. Además de las escuelas y colegios que el Gobierno soporta, hay muchos establecimientos de enseñanza sostenidos por la Municipalidad y otras por empresas privadas; y de tal manera que cuando un joven ó una señorita ha pasado por los colegios superiores, están preparados para entrar en los departamentos especiales de lsyes, medicina, etc.

"El adelanto alcanzado en los sistemas de transporte y comunicación por telégrafo y teléfono en Nicaragua es igualmente grande. En el interior tiene buenas vías de comunicación con ambas costas, de suerte que el productor de café ó el que se dedica á la crianza de animales, hallan muy poca dificultad en enviar sus productos á todos los puertos del Atlántico y del Pacífico. Los tipos de fletes y pasajes son muy módicos, pudiendo hacerse el viaje de Greytown á Corinto—es decir, de océano á océano, rápidamente y por vapor, por menos de $15 oro, y á través de las ciudades principales, por una pequeña suma. La red telegráfica se extiende por todo el país, y cuesta el servicio como la mitad de lo que se paga en los Estados Unidos. Y el de teléfonos á largas distancias es generalmente satisfactorio. Los ríos y lagos son navegables y es eficáz el servicio de vapores. Nicaragua pertenece á la gran Unión Postal Internacional y sus facilidades para trasmitir el correo son excelentes, habiéndose extendido hasta los distritos rurales el reparto libre de la correspondencia.

"Nicaragua abunda en riquezas minerales y agrícolas. Las minas de oro son numerosas y de ellas se extrae el precioso metal con grandes beneficios. Cobre y ópalos abundan también, aunque Honduras, la vecina del Norte, es especialmente notable por la riqueza de éstos.

"Entre las producciones agrícolas existen el café, maís, frijoles, trigo, arroz, azúcar, algodón, tabaco, y legumbres, fuera de las frutas tropicales que en todas partes se producen en abundancia. El tabaco es de excelente calidad y en algunas zonas rivaliza al mejor que se produce en la Habana.

"En los bosques crecen abundantemente maderas finas, que constituyen uno de los ramas de exportación, siendo digno de notar que una gran cantidad de la caoba que importan los Esados Unidos es de aquella procedencia.

"En las fértiles llanuras prospera la cría y sus productos se venden en toda la América Central, habiéndo comenzado ya los embarques de millares de cabezas de ganado para Cuba.

"La maquinaria más moderna y las más nuevas invenciones son necesarias al desarrollo de la agricultura. El pueblo sabe apreciar sus necesidades y no vacila en hacerse de aquello que no tiene facilidad de producir. No son las fábricas tan numerosas como sería de desear, pero se invita siempre al capital extranjero que vaya á dar empuje á su desarrollo. Existe ya, sin embargo, en el país un ingenio de azúcar que no tiene superior en el istmo.

"Según informes estadísticos las importaciones que Nicaragua hace de Inglaterra alcanzan á un millón y medio; las de Alemania á un millón, mientras que las procedentes de los Estados Unidos sólo á medio millón de dollars por año; y esto no obstante de que sus exportaciones para los Estados Unidos se avalúan en un millón de dollars, para Inglaterra en cerca de tres cuartos de millón, y para Alemania en cerca de dos millones y cuarto.

"Con tales elementos de riqueza y de progreso, que, como prometí, á la ligera he referido, fácil es comprender que la construcción del canal marítimo por Nicaragua producirá una revolución comercial que hará á ésta y á Centro América entera un gran centro de negocios. Por aquel canal habrán de pasar los buques de Europa y los Estados Unidos en viaje á la costa occidental de Norte y Sur América y en rumbo hacia el Oriente; y los de las riberas occidentales de las Américas con carga para los Estados Unidos y Europa. Yasí aumentará la inmigracion; el desarrollo de sus campos fértiles y de sus ricas minas recibirá impulso; se establecerán nuevas fábricas; el crecimiento del tráfico prestará alientos á las mejoras públicas, y como por obra de magia, la América Central adquirirá tal importancia comercial, que rivalizará con la de los otros países de ambos continentes.

"Permítaseme, Señor Presidente, señoras y caballeros, que antes de dejar esta tribuna manifieste las sinceras felicitaciones que el Gobierno y pueblo de Nicaragua envían al Congreso Comercial Internacional, junto con sus mejores deseos por el cumplimiento de las nobles aspiraciones de aquéllos que tuvieron la maravillosa idea de reunir á todos los países en un respetable cuerpo como éste, para estrechar sus relaciones comerciales y facilitar el movimiento mercantil universal."

PARAGUAY.

AGRICULTURA Y COMERCIO.

El Señor CARLOS R. SANTOS, Representante de la república del Paraguay en el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, habló con entusiasmo ante dicho cuerpo sobre las grandes ventajas naturales que su país presenta para la agricultura, y dijo que la admirable fertilidad de su suelo permite el cultivo de todos los productos de las zonas templada y tropical. En cuanto al reino mineral, existen en el Paraguay minas de cobre, hierro, manganeso, cristal de roca,

mármol, etc. Los inmensos bosques del país contienen maderas de todas clases, y en sus llanuras la cría de ganado da admirables resultados, pues se obtienen ganancias que ascienden á 25 y hasta 30 por ciento anualmente. Según el Señor SANTOS, los principales artículos de comercio que el Paraguay produce son yerba mate, tabaco, mandioca, café, azúcar, algodón, arroz, alfalfa, frutas, tales como plátanos, melones, naranjas, etc. Se espera que dentro de poco tiempo los saladeros del Paraguay ocuparán un lugar prominente y competirán con los de la República Argentina en cuanto á la exportación de carnes secas á los mercados de Cuba y del Brasil.

PLANTAS TEXTILES DEL PAÍS.

En una comunicación dirigida de la Asunción por el Cónsul de los Estados Unidos, Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, al Departamento de Estado, y que lleva la fecha de 15 de agosto de 1899, se describen tres clases de plantas textiles del Paraguay, á saber: algodón, sauce verde y caraguatá. Estas dos últimas son plantas fibrosas cuyo uso y nombre son puramente locales.

El algodón crece durante todo el año, aunque después de la primera cosecha cortan la planta por la parte baja del tronco con objeto de que retoñe y dé nuevas cosechas. Después del segundo año, la fibra se vuelve más gruesa, y en orden á que se conserve fina es necesario arar el terreno y volver á sembrar las semillas. El Gobierno da toda clase de protección á esta industria, y, según los agrónomos de la República, se producen tres clases de algodón, conocidas con los nombres de *Gossypium herbaceum; G. vitafolium* y *G. arboreum.* Existe también un algodón rojo (*Guarani mandypyta*), del cual se hacen efectos ordinarios, tales como ponchos, etc.

El sauce verde crece principalmente en terrenos pantanosos, y cuando se le corta es casi negro, pero después de ser sometido á cierto procedimiento, la fibra se vuelve blanca y brillante, siendo además muy fuerte. Opina Mr. RUFFIN que esta planta podría usarse en fabricar géneros parecidos á los de seda. Según la descripción que de dicha fibra se da, esta planta debe de ser una especie de ramio.

La caraguatá es otra planta fibrosa, más abundante que el sauce verde, y que pertenece á la familia de las *Bromiliceæ*, una especie de anana. Crece mejor en los campos que cuando se la cultiva, y como sus hojas tienen muchas espinas, es difícil cortarlas. Sin el uso de maquinaria especial, es casi imposible separar de la fibra todas las impurezas, pero bien vale la pena de hacer esto, pues los naturales del país emplean dicha fibra para hacer cuerdas, y se la considera superior al yute. Durante la guerra entre el Brasil y el Uruguay se descubrió que dicha planta era muy útil para la fabricación de papel, y de su fruto, mezclado con azúcar, se destila un aguardiente de sabor muy agradable. En orden á que la planta retoñe se la corta casi á raíz.

OPORTUNIDADES PARA LOS CAPITALISTAS.

El Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en la Asunción ha enviado últimamente al Departamento de Estado un informe sobre la posibilidad de invertir capital en el Paraguay. Están para construirse una nueva casa municipal y un nuevo mercado, lo cual ofrece oportunidades á los que negocian en materiales de construcción. Dice también que se necesita una gran casa de empeños en la Asunción, y que un banco americano que se ocupase en construir casas, en exportar cueros y pieles, y que hiciese el negocio de naranjas, ganaría mucho. Las naranjas del Paraguay tienen gran demanda en los países que quedan al sur de dicha República, y en opinión del Cónsul, también podrían ser exportadas para el norte. Deben ser empacadas con tanto cuidado como las de la Florida. Si se considera el gran consumo de géneros de algodón en la República, se comprende que el establecimiento de una fábrica de los mismos daría resultados lucrativos.

PERÚ.

LA INDUSTRIA MINERA EN SUS RELACIONES CON EL TRÁFICO.

Las minas del Perú han sido desde la época de la conquista objeto de gran interés para el mundo civilizado, y por esta razón el delegado peruano al Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, Don JUAN ANTONIO LOREDO, fué escuchado con mucha atención cuando habló sobre las relaciones existentes entre la industria minera y el desarrollo del tráfico. El Señor LOREDO dijo que la industria minera es una de las que se prestan al desarrollo de las relaciones comerciales del Perú, porque, en realidad, la exportación de la república consiste principalmente en minerales de plata, cobre, plomo y otros productos metalúrgicos, cuyo valor es como de diez millones de soles anualmente, y de los cuales sólo una pequeña parte viene á los Estados Unidos. Agregó el Señor LOREDO que como la metalurgia está tan adelantada en los Estados Unidos y como existen tantas casas fuertes que comercian en metales, sería cosa fácil y poco costosa establece ragencias en los principales centros del Perú para la compra de minerales para la exportación.

El Perú contiene inmensa y varia riqueza mineral y ofrece vasto campo para el establecimiento de grandes empresas y para invertir con provecho considerable capital. Además de la explotación en gran escala de minas de oro, plata y cobre, y de depósitos de petróleo y boratos, se pueden establecer talleres para el beneficio de los minerales, la exportación de los cuales ocasiona grandes gastos. Del 1º de julio de 1898 al 30 de junio de 1899 se exportaron de Cerro de Pasco y Yauli 17,000 toneladas de minerales y mates, los cuales contenían por lo menos 5,100 toneladas de cobre. Se calcula que el depósito de Cerro de Pasco

contiene 15,000,000 toneladas de mineral, las cuales, si se adopta el término medio de 20 por ciento, representan 3,000,000 toneladas de cobre. En cuanto á las minas de oro, no hay parte del Perú donde no existan depósitos de este metal.

Si á las condiciones atrás mencionadas se agrega la facilidad con que pueden obtenerse minas en el Perú, la amplia libertad de que se goza en la explotación de las mismas, lo saludable del clima, las ventajas que todas las regiones minerales ofrecen, pues hay numerosas cascadas que producen fuerza motriz, la abundancia de combustible, de trabajadores, etc., así como la buena disposición de los peruanos hacia los extranjeros, no hay razón para que nadie tema ir á establecerse en aquellos distritos mineros, debiendo todos estar seguros de que con capital y experiencia obtendrán magníficos resultados.

Al concluir su discurso, el Señor LOREDO manifestó que lo que había dicho respecto á los minerales podría aplicarse á otros productos, tales como azúcar, algodón, lana, café, cueros, etc., que también constituyen uno de los medios más sencillos para dar incremento al comercio entre el Perú y los Estados Unidos, y agregó que se necesitan además comunicaciones rápidas y económicas, por medio de líneas de vapores, para lo cual es de la mayor importancia que se construya pronto el canal interoceánico.

COMERCIO Y AGRICULTURA.

El Señor JORGE BASADRE, en el discurso que, como Delegado del Perú, pronunció ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, el 28 de octubre próximo pasado, dijo cosas muy interesantes acerca de asuntos agrícolas en su país. El Perú ha sido mirado siempre como un país esencialmente minero, pero, según el Señor BASADRE, la costa produce azúcar, algodón, arroz y otros artículos, que constituyen más del 25 por ciento de la exportación general. El algodón es oriundo del suelo, y algunas de las clases son pagadas á precios muy altos. La planta rinde dos cosechas anualmente y vive como treinta años. Cada acre de tierra produce como 320 libras de algodón limpio y 520 libras de semillas. Además del algodón blanco, hay el gris, el amarillo, el rojo y el color de violeta, que son muy apreciados. La caña de azúcar es el principal cultivo de la costa, y se han invertido en esta industria veinte millones de pesos, los cuales producen un interés de 8 por ciento al año.

Además de los productos agrícolas, existen en la costa grandes depósitos de petróleo que cubren un área de 16,000 millas cuadradas. Solo 50,000 acres de estas tierras han sido apropriados, y son muy pocas las pertenencias que están en explotación. El petróleo se encuentra á una profundidad de 200 á 400 pies, y los pozos producen de 30 á 400 barriles por día. Menos del 1 por ciento de la superficie cultivable de la costa está hoy bajo cultivo. Antes de que los españoles llegaran al país había grandes porciones de tierra regadas por medio de canales

bien construidos. Como en la costa las lluvias son muy raras, la agricultura tiene que depender exclusivamente del riego. La verdad es que en la parte meridional de la costa no llueve nunca, y que en el norte solamente se ven fuertes lluvias cada siete ó diez años, las cuales, cayendo en un suelo extraordinariamente fértil, producen por algunos años magníficas cosechas. El comercio del Perú con los Estados Unidos, aunque todavía es pequeño, aumenta rápidamente, y representa como una décima parte del comercio general del país. En 1898 se exportaron para este país 103,718 toneladas métricas de azúcar, 6,712 toneladas de algodón, y 4,295 toneladas de arroz.

EXPLOTACIÓN DE PETRÓLEO.

Se asegura que los depósitos de petróleo del Perú prometen más que cuantos han sido explotados últimamente en el hemisferio occidental. Sin embargo, debido á la falta de capital, la explotación se ha retardado y la producción no es todavía suficiente para el consumo nacional.

Un explorador que fué de los Estados Unidos y que ahora se ocupa en abrir pozos de petróleo en aquella República, escribe á un corresponsal suyo en West Virginia, que dichos depósitos son muy lucrativos, pero que se encuentran á una inmensa profundidad. Con todo, si se emplea maquinaria adecuada, los referidos depósitos pueden convertirse en factores importantes en el comercio de petróleo. Los operarios experimentados de los Estados Unidos reciben muy buenos sueldos, pero á los del país se les paga relativamente muy poco.

LAS MINAS Y EL FERROCARRIL DE CERRO DE PASCO.

El interés que se ha despertado en la construcción del ferrocarril de Oroyo y Cerro de Pasco, para el cual el Gobierno peruano ha solicitado propuestas, da mucha importancia á las célebres minas de Cerro de Pasco, porque el objeto principal de la vía férrea en referencia es llevar á la costa el producto de dichas minas, de manera que pueda enviársele en mayores cantidades que antes á los mercados del mundo.

Estas minas están situadas á 14,300 pies sobre el nivel del mar, cerca de la ciudad del mismo nombre, y como á 80 millas de Oroyo, que es el término actual del ferrocarril. La población del distrito se dedica enteramente á la explotación de minas, y es de 10,000 á 12,000 habitantes. Rara vez pasa de esta última cifra, pero aun así el hecho es notable, si se considera la situación del lugar. Á esta altura el clima es algo frío, pero saludable. La estación menos agradable es la lluviosa, que se extiende de noviembre á abril. La formación mineral es algo anómala y difícil de ser descrita geológicamente. Se encuentran en gran abundancia la plata y el cobre, y también oro y carbón de piedra. Hierro, plombagina, cobalto y otros minerales existen también, pero no han sido explotados todavía. Hasta en el año corriente no se había

creído que valía la pena de explotar las minas de cobre para la exportación, y los ensayos que se han hecho han sido muy satisfactorios. Se cree que la producción continuará de la misma manera, porque dicho metal ha dado mejores resultados que la plata. Esta última, sin embargo, es el objeto principal de explotación, aunque los métodos empleados son de carácter primitivo, debido á la dificultad de establecer rápida y fácil comunicación con el litoral.

En el año de 1630 un indio, al remover algunas piedras, descubrió que estaban cubiertas de hilos de color brillante que parecían formar parte de las mismas. Un minero de un aldea vecina reconoció que lo que dichas piedras tenían era plata, y desde luego se puso á buscar más. Los resultados fueron tan satisfactorios, que antes de los fines del año no solamente había un número considerable de minas que producían el precioso metal, sino que se fundó la población de Cerro de Pasco, compuesta de mineros y sus familias. Durante 269 años estas famosas minas han sido explotadas y han producido por término medio 1,600,000 onzas de plata pura cada año. La cantidad de minerales conteniendo plata que se ha sacado de estas minas se calcula en 30,000,000 toneladas. Durante el largo período citado la conducción del mineral á las fundiciones se ha hecho por medio de acémilas, y la distancia que hay que travesar es de 3 á 6 millas. Los procedimientos usados para explotar las minas y beneficiar los minerales son los mismos que se usaban en 1630.

En 1814 el Capitán RICHARD TREVERICK introdujó de Cornwall, Inglaterra, á Cerro de Pasco, con grandes gastos, un número considerable de máquinas de vapor de alta presión, para el efecto de extraer agua y de elevar pesos, é hizo venir también ingenieros y mecánicos para que instalaran y manejaran dicha maquinaria. Aunque las máquinas dieron resultados satisfactorios, la dificultad de mantenerlas en buen estado y de repararlas obligó á los propietarios á volver á los procedimientos primitivos. En 1870 se celebró un contrato con los Señores WYMAN Y HARRISON para la instalación de maquinaria moderna en las minas de Cerro de Pasco. Esta maquinaria fué enviada de Cornwall en noviembre del mismo año, pero antes de que se pudiera hacer uso de ella, los contratistas quebraron y no se obtuvo resultado alguno. Finalmente, en 1877, se hizo un contrato con Mr. HENRY MEIGGS, el célebre ingeniero de los Estados Unidos, por el cual se comprometió á construir un ferrocarril á Cerro de Pasco y además un túnel de drenaje debajo de las minas.

Se dió principio á la construcción de este túnel, pero cuando se habían hecho como 100 pies, Mr. MEIGGS murió, y nada práctico se pudo llevar á efecto en lo tocante al ferrocarril. Desde aquella época se ha tratado de revivir el proyecto muchas veces, pero no ha sido sino en este año que se han tomado medidas positivas en ese sentido. El 5 de mayo de este año, el Gobierno peruano solicitó propuestas para la construcción del ferrocarril entre Oroyo y Cerro de Pasco, y la de

Mr. B. THORNDYKE, ingeniero inglés, fué aceptada (véase el BOLETÍN MENSUAL del mes de agosto). El 1° de agosto del año en curso, Mr. THORNDIKE informó al público que estaba ocupado en perfeccionar los planos, perfiles, etc., del ferrocarril, asi como en obtener otros documentos que le permitirían contar con la cooperación de capitalistas.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 663 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de setiembre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los nueve meses que terminaron en setiembre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Ministerio de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de setiembre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en noviembre.

VAPORES PARA EL TRÁFICO SUDAMERICANO.

Como una adición á la flota de W. R. GRACE & CO., que se ocupa en el tráfico de la costa occidental de la América del Sur, el vapor de acero Cuzco, de 7,000 toneladas, fué botado al agua últimamente en Yorker, cerca de Glasgow, en el Clyde. Las dimensiones de dicho barco son las siguientes: eslora 375 pies; manga 50 pies; puntal 28 pies 8 pulgadas; porte bruto 4,350 toneladas; porte neto 2,720 toneladas. El vapor tiene máquinas de triple expansión y de tiro forzado. Se está construyendo en el Tyne un barco igual, que será conocido con el nombre de Cumbal, y que se espera estará terminado cosa del primero del año de 1900. La carga que va de los Estados Unidos á las costas de la América Central y del Sur es actualmente muy considerable, y la Compañía está ansiosa de que lleguen estos nuevos vapores á fin de agregarlos á la flota de la Merchants' Line.

CONGRESO COMERCIAL INTERNACIONAL.

Entre las resoluciones adoptadas por el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, se encuentran las siguientes:

1ª. Considerando que se ha demostrado en varios países extranjeros

que el sistema de paquetes postales ha producido incalculables beneficios; y

Considerando que el sistema de paquetes postales es el medio más directo y eficaz que es posible establecer en todos los países del mundo para la introducción de muestras comerciales; y

Considerando que el Congreso Comercial Internacional tiene por objeto principal hacer indicaciones sobre aquellos asuntos que tiendan á fomentar el desarrollo de los intereses commerciales de los Estados Unidos y otros países;

Se resuelve: Que el Congreso Comercial Internacional recomienda que se suplique al Congreso de los Estados Unidos y á todos los gobiernos que aun no hayan establecido dicho sistema de paquetes postales, que lo establezcan.

2ª. *Se resuelve:* Que es de desear que, en cuanto sea practicable, se establezca uniformidad en el sistema de hacer las estadísticas comerciales de todos los países á fin de poder compararlas con exactitud; y que este Congreso haga llegar esta resolución á manos del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, con el objeto de que se adopten aquellas medidas que se juzguen oportunas para el establecimiento de dicha uniformidad en las estadísticas, después de haber consultado el punto con los gobiernos extranjeros.

3ª. *Se resuelve:* Que el Congreso Comercial Internacional suplica al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos y á los de otras naciones que tomen en consideración el asunto del establecimiento por las naciones comerciales del mundo, de una Oficina Internacional que se encargue de recoger y publicar los informes agrícolas que dichas naciones suministren respecto de sus cereales, á fin de que obtengan la más rápida y extensa circulación internacional.

4ª. Después de referirse á la importancia del Museo Comercial de Filadelfia, considerado como institución oficial y nacional, por virtud de su organización y el apoyo que ha recibido del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, del Estado de Pensilvania y de la ciudad de Filadelfia, y como institución internacional por su representación y carácter comercial, su influencia, etc., se resolvió: "Que en el sentir del Congreso la reciprocidad en las relaciones de comercio del mundo se ensancharía y facilitaría grandemente creando en cada país una Oficina Internacional de Informaciones Comerciales, que obedeciera á un plan uniforme de organización y de operaciones, semejante al iniciado por el Museo de Filadelfia, ó tal cual se estipule por convenio mutuo; que dichas oficinas establezcan el intercambio de toda clase de datos é informes, conservando por todos los medios sus relaciones de reciprocidad; que emprendan el estudio de asuntos comerciales de carácter nacional é internacional, actuando todas de común acuerdo como Junta de Comercio Internacional."

5ª. Considerando que las ventajas económicas que habría de reportar un canal interoceánico son de suprema importancia para el comercio del mundo, desde el punto de vista industrial y económico;

Considerando que la utilidad y el costo de su establecimiento han sido materia de estudio por muchos años y no se cree que existan dudas razonables acerca de la practicabilidad ó conveniencia de la empresa, sea cual fuere su costo;

Se resuelve: Que el Congreso Comercial Internacional da su cordial apoyo á la construcción de un canal interoceánico en el Hemisferio Occidental, y la recomienda con instancia para ser efectuada á la primera oportunidad.

URUGUAY.

COMERCIO É INDUSTRIAS.

El Señor Don PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Cónsul General de la República Oriental del Uruguay y Delegado de su país ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, pronunció, en la sesión del día 30 del mes próximo pasado, un discurso muy interesante, del cual se extracta lo siguiente:

"El valor de las importaciones del Uruguay en los Estados Unidos durante los seis últimos meses de 1898, fué de $593,641.73, y en los primeros seis meses de 1899 ascendió á $1,198,585.28, lo cual es un aumento de $604,940.55. En esta importación no figura una sola paca de lana. Entre los artículos que se importan, ocupan un lugar muy importante los cueros y el tasajo. También han aumentado las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos al Uruguay, pues en 1898 fueron de $1,346,816.15, contra $1,113,565.07 en 1897, lo cual muestra un aumento de $233,251.08. Desde el 1° de enero hasta el 30 de junio de este año dichas exportaciones han ascendido á $628,202.42, y los últimos seis meses de 1899 mostrarán un aumento sobre 1898.

"El Señor MURGUIONDO hizo una comparación entre lo que se importó en el Uruguay durante cinco años, de 1894 á 1898, de los Estados Unidos y de los otros países del mundo, con el siguiente resultado: de los Estados Unidos, $6,794,187.08; de los otros países, $112,217,812.92. Al hablar de la situación económica de su país, el Señor MURGUIONDO hizo presente que en el Uruguay la base del sistema monetario es el oro, y que la República paga con toda regularidad los intereses de su deuda. También manifestó que el tipo de su moneda es más alto que el de cualquiera otra en el mundo, y que una águila americana de $20 vale en moneda uruguaya $19.32. Existen en el Uruguay numerosos bancos con fuertes capitales. El Señor MURGUIONDO hizo referencia á las grandes riquezas minerales de su país y mencionó una mina que está ahora en explotación y que pertenece á capitalistas franceses, la cual promete producir tanto oro como produjeron las mejores minas de California.

"En opinión del Señor Cónsul General, lo que principalmente se necesita para aumentar el tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y el Uruguay es el establecimiento de buenas líneas de vapores, iguales á los del Houston Line y aun mayores. Los trabajos en el puerto de Montevideo van á costar cosa de $15,000,000, oro, y harán de aquella hermosa ciudad uno de los primeros puertos de América. Los planos para dichos trabajos están enteramente listos. Antes de terminar su discurso el Señor MURGUIONDO llamó la atención á un asunto de interés general, el saneamiento de los puertos de la América Central y del Sur y de las Antillas, á fin de evitar que vuelva á aparecer en ellos la fiebre amarilla. Dijo que prácticamente esto se había hecho ya en Cuba, que fué por largos años la cuna de dicha epidémia en las Antillas. Á este respecto mencionó un importante trabajo del Cirujuano en Jefe W. WYMAN, que trata extensamente sobre la mencionada enfermedad, y en que hace valiosas indicaciones sobre la manera de destruir los gérmenes de la misma."

El discurso del Señor MURGUIONDO fué escuchado con mucha atención.

VENEZUELA.

LÍMITES CON LA GUAYANA INGLESA.

La línea limítrofe entre Venezula y la Guayana Británica, según aparece en las minutas del Tribunal de Arbitramento entre los gobiernos de S. M. B. y los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, es como sigue:

"Partiendo de la costa, en Punta Playa, la frontera seguirá en línea recta hasta la confluencia del Barima y el Mururuma; de aquí siguiendo el cauce de este último hasta su cabecera, y de este punto hasta la confluencia del Haiowa y el Amacuro; de aquí seguirá el cauce de éste hasta sus cabeceras en las montañas de Imataca; de aquí seguirá en dirección sudoeste por la cumbre más alta del ramal de las montañas de Imataca, frente á las cabeceras del Barima, de donde seguirá la cima de la sierra principal en dirección sudeste de las montañas de Imataca hasta las fuentas del Acarabisi, siguiendo éste hasta el Cuyuni, cuya ribera setentrional ha de seguir en dirección occidental hasta llegar á la confluencia del Wenamu, cuyo cauce seguirá hasta el extremo occidental de sus cabeceras, de donde partirá en línea recta hasta la cumbre del Monte Roraima, y de aquí á las cabeceras del Cotinga, cuyo cauce seguirá hasta su confluencia con el Takutu. Siguiendo el cauce de este último hasta sus cabeceras, partirá de allí en línea recta al punto más occidental de los montes Acarai, cuya sierra ha de seguir hasta las fuentes del Corentino, llamado también río Cutarí."

La discrepancia que existe entre esta línea divisoria y la que apareció publicada en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de octubre,

se debe á que, como entonces se hizó notar, fué aquella la versión transmitida por el telégrafo, mientras que la que se publica hoy es de fuente oficial.

FUENTES DE RIQUEZA É INDUSTRIAS.

El Cónsul General de Venezuela en Nueva York, Don ANTONIO E. DELFINO, leyó ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, en su décima tercera sesión, un interesante estudio acerca de la riqueza del país que representa y las industrias que allí florecen al presente.

Después de hacer notar la posición geográfica y la extensión de la República, el Señor DELFINO habló de las grandes riquezas minerales del país, su frondosa vegetación, plantas medicinales y textiles, maderas finas, y su riqueza agrícola y pecuaria. Los principales productos que exporta Venezuela son café, cacao, cueros, ganado en pie, caucho, asfalto, cobre, oro y maderas, que alcazan á cerca de $20,000,000 al año, correspondiendo al café como el 80 por ciento del valor total. Las importaciones que hace el país no llegan á esta suma sino que fluctùan según las necesidades. El principal mercado con que comercia Venezuela es los Estados Unidos; la mitad de las exportaciones de café de Venezuela vienen á los Estados Unidos y la otra mitad va á Francia y á Alemania. Venezuela exporta ganado para las Antillas, pues tiene facilidades excepcionales para la industria pecuaria, entre otras la proximidad de ciertos criaderos á los mejores puertos de la República, lo que facilita el embarque. La proximidad de Venezuela á los Estados Unidos, que permite no sólo el embarque de ganado en pie sino el de carnes, dará por resultado en la opinión del Cónsul el establecimiento de saladeros para le exportación.

Á causa de la escasez de población, la agricultura, la minería y otras industrias naturales no se han desarrollado al extremo que la riqueza del país lo permite. Venezuela, añade, podría establecer en grande escala la exportación del henequén que crece silvestre en el país, y cuya fibra habría de hallar mercado en los Estados Unidos á precios buenos, y termina invitando la inversión de capitales en las industrias del país.

LA INSTRUCCIÓN COMO BASE COMERCIAL.

El Señor MIGUEL J. ROMERO, delegado oficial de Venezuela en el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, leyó las siguientes palabras en la sesión Pan-Americana, abogando por el comercio intelectual como la base para el progreso y la unión de América:

"Al grado de cultura á que ha llegado la civilización se debe el desarrollo de un comercio activo é importante en el mundo—el Comercio Intelectual. Sin el cambio de ideas no hubiera podido realizarse el maravilloso progreso del siglo. Alentarlo, pues, extenderlo más y más con el vinculo sagrado de la unión, es deber nuestro, para legarlo á las generaciones del porvenir de un modo estable y perfecto.

"Para llevar á cabo, señores, la obra grandiosa del desarrollo material y la unión americana, es necesario establecer primero la base fundamental. Estudiando nuestras costumbres, nuestra historia, nuestra literatura, interesándonos más los hijos de este continente por los pueblos que lo forman, visitándonos y reuniéndonos con frecuencia, llegaremos á conocernos bien y así podremos apreciarnos mejor. La base de nuestro progreso estriba, pues, en el comercio intelectual.

"No es tarea difícil laborar en este sentido. Mucho se ha logrado ya durante estos últimos años. Los diferentes congresos comerciales, científicos y literarios celebrados en América demuestran palpablemente la necesidad de nuestras relaciones intelectuales, que reclaman con urgencia el esfuerzo y apoyo de los Americanos, porque de ellas se deriva el desarrollo material y el comercio de víveres y maquinarias.

"Las simpatías intelectuales traen consigo la venta de productos. El comercio de libros, pluma, tinta y papel, se hace cada día más necesario. Extiéndasele por toda América junto con la máquina de escribir, ese vehículo admirable del pensamiento, y nuestro progreso y unión será un hecho. En los Estados Unidos del Norte he aprendido por la observación y el estudio que la felicidad y prosperidad de los pueblos es el resultado de la educación y cultura individual. El lento progreso material del continente americano se debe al lento progreso de la educación individual. Sin ésta, señores, se hará imposible el comercio y la unión. No os alarmeis creyendo que me propongo negar la civilización de América. Al contrario, le rindo un culto idólatra. Sé muy bien que este continente ocupa un puesto distinguido en el mundo civilizado y que á él se debe en mucho el progreso universal. Pero convendreis conmigo en que el sistema de enseñanza y la educación que predomina en América reclama una mejora para la formación en mayor escala de individuos aptos y capaces de llevar á cabo el progreso material é intelectual del continente, y procurar así la unión y prosperidad de sus pueblos. No nos hagamos ilusiones. La América no es solamente los Estados Unidos del Norte y el Canadá, el Brazil y la Argentina, esos extremos en donde la civilización ha extendido más sus redes. Pensad por un momento en los millones de habitantes que pueblan el continente y no sería una paradoja el decir: La América está aún por civilizar. Aquí mismo, señores, en los Estados Unidos existen problemas de civilización que están aun por resolver. Dediquemos, pues, nuestros esfuerzos al comercio intelectual y á la educación individual si queremos hacer estable el progreso material.

"Un gran paso en este sentido ha dado Filadelfia creando el Museo Comercial. No es de ahora que lo he reconocido así. Al instalarse escribí á periódicos de la América latina participándoles que se había fundado el instituto más adecuado para extender la civilización por el continente. La misión del Museo Comercial es noble y grandiosa, considerada intelectual y materialmente. El Museo educa é instruye á la vez que aboga por la explotación de las fuentes de riquezas del con-

tinente. Es una escuela para las industrias y será el canal de comunicación entre los diferentes países americanos, pues por su conducto llegaremos á conocer las respectivas producciones fabriles é intelectuales de América. Figura por consiguiente el Museo en el ramo del comercio intelectual. Aunque todavía en la infancia, empieza ya á dar frutos sazonables. Mucho le falta aun por hacer. Su plan no está completo. Necesita extenderlo y modificarlo más de modo que llegue á ser una institución prácticamente fecunda en bienes para la América.

"Como complemento de la obra del Museo, sería conveniente la organización de una sociedad compuesta de miembros activos y permanentes en todos los países americanos, entusiastas por la educación intelectual, el progreso y la unión de América, que se ocupe de fundar escuelas, museos, bibliotecas, periódicos, puramente americanos. Es decir, que dé á conocer entre los Americanos las producciones materiales é intelectuales de América, su historia, su geografía. No confiemos en que esto lo aprende el niño en las escuelas públicas, puesto que más atención se presta en ellas á lo relacionado con pueblos remotos, con quienes jamás comerciamos, que á lo referente á nuestros vecinos. Dicha sociedad con un carácter estable y autorizado se ocuparía de los asuntos vitales que interesan al porvenir y bienestar del continente. Estudiará individualmente cada localidad, buscando soluciones adecuadas á su adelanto y civilización. Para ello se reunirá anualmente en una capital distinta.

"La organización de esta sociedad es la idea que me permito recomendar á mis colegas del Congreso Comercial, deseando que al separarnos de los Estados Unidos la dejemos fundada, pues ocasión más oportuna que la presente en que nos encontramos reúnidos un número considerable de americanos tal vez no ocurra muy pronto.

"Aliada voluntaria de esta sociedad lo sería, sin duda, The Cuban Educational Association of the United States, cuyo noble objeto es procurar la educación de la juventud cubana y portorriqueña en institutos de los Estados Unidos, comprometiéndose los jóvenes que reciben este beneficio á regresar á la tierra natal después de terminados sus estudios, á tomar parte activa en su desarrollo y progreso. Esta asociación ha colocado ya varios jóvenes en distintos colegios de agricultura y mecánica de este país.

"El Museo Comercial de Filadelfia y The Cuban Educational Association of the United States serán la piedra fundamental para construir el gran edificio de la unión americana basada en la educación individual. Si prestamos atención al movimiento intelectual desarrollado en el continente en las últimas décadas del siglo, nos convenceremos que de los colegios, bibliotecas y museos dependerá su desarrollo agrícola y comercial.

"Por otra parte, nuestras futuras relaciones de amistad, política y comercio se extenderán por conducto de las simpatías que nazcan al calor del compañerismo escolar. Continúen los jóvenes de Sur y Centro

América estudiando en los colegios del Norte, y dentro de pocos años la unión será sólida y el comercio estable. Foméntese la idea que ha surgido ya en las Universidades de Cornell y de Lehigh, fundando entre los estudiantes y profesores clubs latino-americano; continúense las conferencias ilustradas sobre la historia, el comercio, la agricultura, etc., de los países latino-americanos y siga enseñándose el castellano en las escuelas, colegios y universidades de los Estados Unidos para que se logre en poco tiempo el aumento de nuestras relaciones comerciales. La Universidad de Pennsylvania acaba de dar un buen ejemplo en este respecto, según he leído en el 'Public Ledger' de reciente fecha.

"Sí, señores, América necesita conocer y estudiar mejor á América. Yo tengo esperanzas de que el Museo Comercial pueda realizar felizmente esta obra. Haciendo público testimonio de mi entusiasmo por esta institución, continuaré prestándole gustoso mis servicios y colaboración."

ESTUDIO DEL DELTA DEL ORINOCO.

El buque de los Estados Unidos *Dolphin* salió de este país el 5 de noviembre al mando del Comandante SUNDERLAND, de la Marina de los Estados Unidos, y después de tocar en el puerto de La Guaira, pasará á la boca grande del Orinoco, donde hará un estudio completo de la barra.

EL CANAL INTEROCEÁNICO.

En la sesión del Congreso Comercial Internacional del día 24 de octubre, dedicada al canal por el istmo americano y á los problemas consiguientes, se leyeron varios trabajos interesantes referentes á la vía interoceánica por Nicaragua y Panamá.

El Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica y Delegado oficial al expresado Congreso, al tomar parte en la sesión, dijo lo siguiente:

"La idea de unir los dos grandes océanos por medio de un canal á través del Istmo americano, surgió, como es sabido, desde el momento en que se llegó al convencimiento de que no había el paso que desde los días de Colón se creía que existía hacia el mar del Sur.

"No es necesario recomendar los méritos de este proyecto desde luego que él por sí mismo los expone con la sola indicación de lo que importaría al mundo una corta y fácil vía entre el Atlántico, que es el mar de Europa, y el Pacífico, que es el gran océano del Ásia, de Australia, y de las extensas costas occidentales del Nuevo Mundo.

"La historia del proyecto, en general, es bien conocida, y en cuanto á la practicabilidad de la obra todos sabemos que han emitido juicio favorable eminentes autoridades en la materia.

"No voy, pues, á tratar de ninguno de estos dos puntos, ni creo tampoco necesario ocupar la atención de este honorable Congreso, extendiéndome en la consideración de las ventajas que ofrece al comercio del mundo entero la gran empresa de unir los dos mares; mi deseo al tomar parte en esta sesión se limita á exponer, aunque de modo breve, para que sea mejor conocida, la posición de Costa Rica y su interés directo en la empresa del canal.

"El territorio de Costa Rica está comprendido entre el de Nicaragua y el de Panamá, las dos partes del Istmo con cuyos nombres se distinguen el proyecto francés de Canal de Panamá, y el de Canal de Nicaragua, que ha sido siempre el proyecto americano. Esta posición ventajosa asegura para el industrioso y pacífico pueblo de Costa Rica todos los beneficios de la proximidad como el vecino más inmediato, cualquiera que sea de aquellos lugares el que finalmente la vía atraviese. Pero la frontera costarricense no llega á la línea del Canal de Panamá, mientras que para la vía por Nicaragua es indispensable una parte de nuestro territorio. Y éste no es un hecho nuevo ó que recientes estudios establezcan, sino que es bien conocido desde los días mismos de Vasco Núñez de Balboa. El primer estudio formal sobre el terreno no se llevó á cabo, sin embargo, sino hasta el año de 1581, cuando en cumplimiento de instrucciones superiores, el Capitán Antonio Pereira, Gobernador de Costa Rica, organizó una expedición y exploró la vía por el Río de San Juan, el Lago y los ríos que desaguan en el Golfo de Nicoya, Costa Rica. Treinta y nueve años después, Diego de Mercado sometió al Rey Felipe III su famoso informe de enero 23 de 1620, indicando la vía por el río y el Lago, y de allí por el territorio de Costa Rica, sobre la quebrada ó barranca honda, á la Bahía de Salinas, llamada entonces Puerto del Papagayo.

"Ya sea porque la magnitud de la empresa fuera en aquel tiempo superior á las necesidades del comercio, ó como se decía, porque España considerara el canal contrario á sus intereses, la época de la independencia llegó sin que el proyecto hubiera estado jamás en vía de ejecución.

"Después de la independencia el Congreso de Centro América, en el cual estaban representadas Costa Rica y Nicaragua, como Estados de la Federación que sucedió al Gobierno colonial, emitió el 16 de junio de 1825 un decreto disponiendo la construcción del canal, y en aquel mismo año Don Antonio José Cañas, representante diplomático de Centro América en Wáshington, se dirigió al Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos, Mr. Henry Clay, informándole de aquella resolución y comunicándole que 'una compañía formada de respetables ciudadanos americanos estaba lista para tomar á su cargo el trabajo tan pronto como un tratado asegurando la cooperación del Gobierno de

Wáshington se firmara; que él estaba listo para entrar en las negociaciones de este tratado, y que nada podría ser más agradable para Centro América que ver al generoso pueblo de los Estados Unidos unirse á ella en la idea de abrir el canal, compartiendo la gloria de la empresa, y gozando de las grandes ventajas que habrían de derivarse de la misma.'

"El Gobierno de Centro América no pudo llevar á efecto la empresa, no obstante que, entre los medios que procuró para llegar al éxito deseado, figura el arreglo celebrado con el Rey de Holando en octubre de 1830; mas, si fueron frustradas las esperanzas puestas en la empresa, han quedado consignadas para honra de Centro América las declaraciones de aquel Congreso que constituyen, como la concesión misma de canal, uno de los ducumentos públicos de carácter más elevado que hayan sido emitidos por nación alguna de la tierra.

"Disuelta la Federación de Centro América, corresponde á Nicaragua y á Costa Rica directamente este importante asunto, y determinados que fueron los límites entre las dos Repúblicas, por el tratado de 15 de abril de 1858, de igual manera que los puntos que se refieren al canal, los dos Gobiernos otorgaron conjuntamente una concesión, el 1° de mayo de aquel mismo año, á Mr. Felix Belly, distinguido escritor francés á quien el Emperador Napoleón daba su apoyo para llevar adelante la empresa. No habiéndose esto logrado, los dos Gobiernos, en perfecto acuerdo, celebraron el contrato designado con el nombre de Ayon-Chevalier, firmado por Nicaragua el 18 de octubre de 1868 y por Costa Rica el 18 de julio de 1869, el cual, innecesario es decirlo, tampoco dió resultado alguno.

"Algunos años después de la expiración de este último contrato, Nicaragua promovió discusión sobre la validez del tratado y sobre la significación de algunos de sus estipulaciones, todo lo cual Costa Rica mantenía, y la cuestión fué sometida á la decisión del Presidente de los Estados Unidos, Mr. Cleveland, quien en su laudo de 22 de marzo de 1888, aceptado por ambas partes, declaró válido el tratado y obligatorio para ambas Repúblicas, é interpretó los puntos que en concepto de Nicaragua eran dudosos. De conformidad con lo que expresan ambos documentos, el tratado y el laudo, aun en el remoto evento de que no se tocaran los derechos naturales de Costa Rica, Nicaragua se ha obligado á no hacer concesiones para objetos de canal al través de su territorio sin pedir primero la opinión de la República de Costa Rica.

"Tres años antes, y cuando aun estaba pendiente esta cuestión, Nicaragua celebró el tratado conocido con el nombre de Zavala-Frelinghuysen, firmado en Wáshington el 1° de diciembre de 1884, por el cual se daba el derecho de propiedad en el canal á los Estadas Unidos, y Costa Rica se adhirió á este tratado con fecha 23 de febrero de 1885; pero las negociaciones quedaron sin efecto, porque habiendo sido negada su ratificación en el Senado, aunque habiéndose acordado la reconsi-

deración del asunto, el Presidente CLEVELAND, al inaugurar su primera administración, retiró del Senado aquel documento.

"Las cosas volvieron, pues, al estado en que se mantenían anteriormente, y Nicaragua en abril de 1887, y Costa Rica en julio de 1888 otorgaron, respectivemente, las concesiones en virtud de las cuales ha estado pendiente en estos últimos años la construcción de la vía americana.

"En el Congreso de los Estados Unidos se viene dando especial atención á esta importante materia desde el año de 1892, y se han creado comisiones encargadas del estudio y locación de la ruta, así como de la influencia del canal en sus diferentes aspectos. Recientemente la investigación no se circunscribe á la vía por Nicaragua y Costa Rica solamente, sino que se extiende á Panamá, y se espera que cuando la nueva comisión nombrada en este año presente sus conclusiones, el Congreso resolverá si se construye por este Gobierno un canal, y en este caso cual de las vías se adoptará.

"Costa Rica realiza la gran importancia de esta obra, la más trascendental, acaso, que se acometa en la época presente, y contribuye á fomentarla consultando su propio interés y los bienes que de ella ha de derivar el progreso general del mundo y en especial las naciones de este continente."

Le siguió después en el uso de la palabra el Dr. LUIS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ, Encargado de Negocios de Colombia, que se expresó en los términos siguientes:

"Discutir la necesidad de abrir un canal interoceánico que complemente la obra del gran BALBOA es inoficioso, porque las necesidades del comercio son cada día más apremiantes y exijen la fusión de las aguas del Atlántico con las del Pacífico en el seno de la tierra americana.

"Tanto la parte comercial como la parte técnica de la obra han sido estudiades y no dejan duda sobre la conveniencia y practicabilidad de la colosal empresa.

"Cuanto á la vía que deba escogerse, juzgo que tampoco puede suscitar duda alguna. La obra de Panamá representa una suma de esfuerzo intelectual y material acumulados en muchas décadas de trabajo hercúleo que difícilmente podrá igualarse y que sería un crimen de lesa civilización dejar perder.

"La nación colombiana, correspondiendo á sus gloriosas tradiciones, no se ha preocupado sino de los grandes intereses de la humanidad, y al dar la concesión para la apertura del canal por su territorio sólo puso las limitaciones que exigían la soberanía é integridad de su territorio y los intereses del comercio universal.

"Colombia tiene actualmente acreditado en Francia un Plenipotenciario que estudia todas las negociaciones referentes al Canal de Panamá, y de cuyo informe dependerá en mucho la decisión que tome en tan delicado asunto; pero puedo asegurar que está en completa libertad de acción y que para nuestro país le es indiferente el orígen

del capital que acometa la obra, siempre que se garantizen los compromisos internacionales hoy existentes.

"El gran pueblo americano, cuya divisa ha sido el respeto para todo derecho, derivará de la realización del Canal de Panamá mayores beneficios que ninguna de las otras grandes naciones de la tierra, y la apertura de la vía interoceánica será un nuevo vinculo que una al pueblo colombiano con la gran República del Norte."

El Dr. J. J. ULLOA, Cónsul General de Costa Rica en Nueva York, abogó ardientemente por la apertura del canal en Nicaragua, diciendo que "el canal dividirá para unir más firmamente las dos repúblicas de Nicaragua y Costa Rica, al mismo tiempo que hará conocidos á los Estados Unidos en la América Central, en donde hallarán ancho campo para el empleo de maquinaria y capital para el desarrollo de aquel suelo prácticamente virgen, que no demanda sino el golpe de azada de empresas bien dirigidas para triplicar en poco tiempo el valor del dinero, del talento y de los esfuerzos que allí se aplicaren."

El Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Costa Rica, el Honorable WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY, complementó los argumentos en favor del canal á través de Nicaragua, refiriéndose á la economía de las distancias navegables, las condiciones favorables de salubridad, el abasto de agua, la facilidad de obtener materiales de construcción y comestibles, la facilidad de enriquecerse y su posición estratégica.

El Señor H. A. GUDGER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Panamá, y el Señor J. W. HUMPHREYS, delegado de la Cámara de Comercio de Colombia, leyeron largos trabajos, presentando los beneficios que reportaría la construcción del canal por Panamá, opiniones en cuales concurrió el Col. J. L. PEARCY, Cónsul que fué de los Estados Unidos en Colombia.

UNIFORMIDAD EN LA NOMENCLATURA DE LAS ESTADÍSTICAS COMERCIALES.

Una de las materias de mayor importancia presentadas al Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia fué la referente á la necesidad de establecer entre todos los países una clasificación uniforme para las estadísticas comerciales. Presentó este trabajo Mr. CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Comisionado del Trabajo de los Estados Unidos, que manifestó que los obstáculos principales que se debían vencer eran las dificultades presentadas en el método de clasificar las diferentes divisiones de los productos que forman el comercio de importación y exportación, el método de avaluarlos y el de asentarlos según el país del origen y el de su destino, en vez de aquel en donde se efectúan la importación y exportación.

Á este respecto, no está demás hacer notar que en una reunión del Instituto Internacional de Estadísticas, que se verificó el 4 de setiembre en Cristianía, Noruega, Mr. A. E. BATEMAN, de la Junta de Comercio Británica, se ocupó del mismo asunto, opinando que para hacer tan útil y completa cuanto fuese posible la comparación de estadísticas comerciales y internacionales, debían tomarse en consideración de una manera más perfecta los distintos sistemas de anotación que se emplean en diferentes países. También llamó la atención á los diversos modos de proceder en los casos de trasbordos en tránsito y los métodos de proceder con las estadísticas comerciales de los "puertos libres" que han sido creados con el objeto expreso de fomentar el comercio.

El plan propuesto por el Profesor CARLO BETOCCHI, de Napoles, Italia, ante el Congreso Comercial, para el establecimiento de una Oficina Central Internacional de las Cámaras de Comercio, fué recibido con grande atención, pues sus fines tienden, en su mayor parte, á hacer desaparecer los obstáculos á que hace referencia Mr. WRIGHT, porque la creación de una oficina central para la distribución de estadísticas comerciales relativas á todos los países del mundo, las cuales han de ser suministradas por los gobiernos respectivos, daría por resultado la deseada uniformidad en la nomenclatura y clasificación de los productos.

El estudio leído ante el Congreso por Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, representante del Gobierno británico, trataba de la misma materia de que se ocupó Mr. WRIGHT, y llamaba la atención á los errores provenientes de la diferente clasificación de un mismo artículo en distintos países, á la divergencia en la manera de proceder en lo referente á estadísticas de tránsito y de trasbordo, y á la falta de uniformidad con respecto al período exacto comprendido en las estadísticas anuales, pues algunos países toman el año civil y otros el fiscal como base del cálculo.

PRODUCCIÓN DE ORO Y PLATA EN EL MUNDO.

El informe oficial relativo á la producción de oro y plata en todo el mundo durante el año civil de 1898, fué publicado el 26 de octubre del año corriente por la Oficina Directiva de las Casas de Moneda de los Estados Unidos, y contiene datos interesantes acerca de la producción de estos metales durante los últimos tres años.

Se calcula que la producción de oro en 1898 fué de $287,428,600. Á la cabeza de los países productores está la República Surafricana, y á continuación vienen Australia y los Estados Unidos, con cantidades casi iguales. En seguida están Rusia, el Canadá, la India, México y China. Los ocho países mencionados produjeron el 94 por ciento de toda la cantidad. En las tablas siguientes se verá la producción de

oro y plata en los países pan-americanos durante los últimos tres años civiles:

ORO.

Países.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Estados Unidos	$53,088,000	$57,363,000	$64,463,000
México	6,500,000	7,500,000	8,500,000
Argentina	315,000	137,700	137,700
Bolivia	250,300	343,500	343,500
Brasil	1,001,100	1,204,200	1,583,700
Chile	611,000	340,000	340,700
Colombia	2,200,100	2,227,200	2,263,200
Ecuador	132,900	132,900	29,500
Perú	110,600	628,000	628,000
Uruguay	33,600	38,500	38,500
Venezuela	948,500	1,057,400	1,057,400
América Central	372,300	465,800	473,700

PLATA.

	Onzas.	*Onzas.*	*Onzas.*
Estados Unidos	53,834,800	53,860,000	54,438,000
México	45,718,982	53,903,180	56,738,000
Argentina	328,170	383,479	383,479
Bolivia	6,374,240	8,204,568	8,204,568
Chile	3,236,536	2,591,998	2,591,998
Colombia	3,407,004	5,047,328	5,483,717
Ecuador	7,734	7,734	7,734
Perú	3,847,078	3,278,602	1,951,240
América Central	808,676	811,892	716,008

Para tener una idea del enorme aumento que ha habido en la producción de oro durante los últimos doce años, basta saber que en 1887 aquélla fué solamente de $106,000,000. En 1892 ascendió á $146,000,000, que hasta entonces había sido la más grande en la historia del mundo. Se calcula que la producción del precioso metal en 1898 fué ocho veces mayor que la que hubo en la época en que se descubrió el oro en California. Se considera que el consumo de oro en artes y manufacturas ascendió en 1898 á $65,000,000, quedando $222,000,000 para ser usados en forma de moneda.

LA COSECHA DE TRIGO EN EL MUNDO ENTERO.

Según los datos suministrados por Mr. BROOMHALL, autoridad inglesa en materia de estadística, la cosecha de trigo en el mundo entero en el año de 1899 sufrirá una diminución general. Esto acontecerá no solamente con relación al trigo, sino respecto de casi todas las clases de cereales. Según la citada autoridad, la cosecha del mundo entero ascenderá este año á 2,496,000,000 *bushels*, lo cual muestra una diminución de 390,000,000 *bushels*, comparada con la del año pasado, y un aumento de 226,000,000 *bushels*, comparada con la de 1897. La

diminución más notable ocurre en América, pues es de 18.6 por ciento, ó sea una diferencia de 168,000,000 *bushels*. La diminución en Europa es casi igual, pues asciende á 163,000,000 *bushels*, pero la proporción es apenas algo más del 10 por ciento. En Asia la diminución fué de 11 por ciento; en África de 30 por ciento, y en Australia de 16 por ciento.

La cantidad de trigo, almacenado ó no, que ha quedado de la gran cosecha del año pasado, se considera mayor que la que se ha tenido en reserva en los últimos años, y dicha cantidad servirá para mantener el equilibrio en los precios. Calcula Mr. BROOMHALL que la reserva de trigo excede en 240,000,000 *bushels* á la del año pasado, pero en presencia de la diminución de 390,000,000 *bushels*, se cree que habrá necesidad de hacer uso de todo el trigo disponible.

Otro punto á que llama la atención el periódico semanal de Bradstreets, al tratar de la cuestión de trigo, es el gran aumento en el precio de los fletes, debido á que el Gobierno inglés ha tomado muchos buques para usarlos como transportes. Este aumento ha sido considerable y equivale á una alza en el precio del grano, cuyos cargamentos tienen que entrar en competencia con los de otros artículos de exportación á Europa. Este estado de cosas explica, hasta un cierto grado, la plétora que se nota en el tráfico de trigo en la Argentina, á lo cual se hace referencia en este número del BOLETÍN.

EL MERCADO DE CAFÉ EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El escrito que se leerá á continuación, y en el cual se trata de las condiciones y necesidades del mercado de café en los Estados Unidos, fué sometido últimamente al Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia é incorporado en su informe correspondiente al 14 de octubre de 1899. Como se verá, el autor, Mr. A. M. WOOLSON, de Ohio, hace indicaciones muy valiosas á los productores que buscan un mercado para su café. Mr. WOOLSON se expresa así:

"El mercado de café en los Estados Unidos es, sin duda alguna, el primero del mundo, por la sencilla razón de que consumimos una cantidad mayor de este artículo que cualquier otro país.

"Si se examina el resumen estadístico publicado este año por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, se observará que durante el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898 importamos 6,451,000 sacos de café, ó sean 870,514,455 libras, con un valor de $65,067,631, á un costo medio de 7.4 centavos por libra, lo cual da un consumo por cabeza de 11.45 libras. Esto demuestra que consumimos casi tanto café como Alemania, Francia, Austria, Bélgica, Holanda, Rusia, Inglaterra y todos los otros países combinados. Puede asegurarse que el mercado de café en los Estados Unidos es el más importante que existe. Es de suponer

que los delegados extranjeros desearían saber cómo hacen los comerciantes americanos para disponer de tanto café. Á este respecto debo advertir que antes de 1860 todos los comerciantes al por menor compraban el café crudo, y los consumidores tenían generalmente que tostarlo en sus propias casas, pero el genio inventivo y la habilidad del mecánico americano introdujeron un nuevo sistema de tostar, muy ventajoso para los consumidores, y que dió por resultado la fundación de grandes establecimientos para dicha industria. El pueblo no tardó en costumbrarse á comprar café tostado en vez de crudo.

"La mencionada industria se ha desarrollado de tal manera, que en la actualida el 90 por ciento del café importado en este país es vendido después de haber sido tostado.

"Esto es de gran economía para el consumidor, porque la operación es hecha por personas versadas en la materia y que cuentan con las facilidades y la maquinaria necesarias para tostar el grano, dando así un producto de calidad más uniforme. En algunos de los Estados del Sur todavía persisten en comprar el café crudo, pero en el Norte, Este y Oeste el café tostado ha monopolizado el mercado.

"Es de sentirse que una gran cantidad de café venga mezclada con piedrezuelas, que nosotros llamamos diamantes del Brasil. Esto obliga al tostador á separar la substancia extraña del café por medio de máquina. Cada saco contiene por término medio cerca de una libra de estas piedrezuelas. El productor que nos envía el café más limpio se ve recompensado con un precio más alto, pues su artículo es clasificado de superior calidad. Centenares de toneladas de las piedras que vienen mezcladas con el café han sido usadas para empedrar calzadas y paseos. Indudablemente muchos productores piensan que obtienen mayores ganancias mezclando con su café cuantas piedras pueden, pero éste es un error, porque el café crudo es examinado cuidadosamente por peritos, quienes clasifican el café con piedrezuelas como de inferior calidad al que no las tiene."

DESARROLLO COMERCIAL Y INDUSTRIAL DE LA AMÉRICA DEL SUR.

El tema del discurso pronunciado por el Hon. W. I. BUCHANAN, que hasta hace poco fué Ministro de los Estados Unidos en la República Argentina, ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia, versó sobre el progreso de la América del Sur desde del punto de vista comercial é industrial. Entre otras apreciaciones hechas por el Señor BUCHANAN, se encuentran las que siguen, extractadas de su trabajo: La América del Sur, y especialmente las Repúblicas que quedan al extremo meridional, han llamado más la atención durante los últimos

tres años que ningún otro país del mundo. Francia, Alemania y la Cámara de Comercio Británica enviaron allí comisionados especiales para estudiar el campo con el objeto de adelanter los intereses del comercio de los países que representaban. Pocos son aquéllos que se han detenido á pensar cuán notables son los cambios ocurridos en las producciones de la América del Norte y la del Sur desde hace veinte ó treinta años.

Chile, por ejemplo, y no hace de esto muchos años, producía y vendía casi toda la harina de trigo que se consumía en la costa occidental de Sud y Centro América, casi hasta California, mientras que hoy esta última, Oregón y Wáshington no sólo producen la harina necesaria para su consumo, sino que la exportan para el Sur y para Europa en cantidades enormes. Chile dejó de ser gran exportador de harina para convertirse en notable exportador de salitre, cobre y vinos, y productor de espléndidas frutas que le prometen un brillante porvenir, mientras que sus riquezas minerales y forestales apenas han sido explotadas. No hace mucho tiempo que la Argentina importaba harina de los Estados Unidos y sólo exportaba cueros secos, huesos y lana basta, mientras que hoy exporta 35,000,000 de *bushels* de trigo en grano y molido, y cerca de la tercera parte de esta cantidad en maíz; hace grandes embarques de mantequilla y exporto más de 2,000,000 de carneros helados y centenares de miles de ganado gordo en pie, de las especies lanar y vacuna, una parte de lo cual va al Brasil, en donde ha reemplazado un comercio que fué un tiempo completamente americano.

Hace pocos años que el Brasil no producía sino limitadas cantidades de café y azúcar, y hoy las cosechas de aquel grano alcanzan á cerca de 9,000,000 de sacos, mientras que la región meridional del país promete ser en el porvenir una gran zona productora de ganado.

No hace muchos años que los Estados Unidos ocupaban el primer lugar en los mercados del Río de la Plata y del Brasil en el comercio de cereales y provisiones. Hoy la Argentina y el Uruguay envían al Brasil más de 65 por ciento de estos artículos y hacen la competencia á los de los Estados Unidos en el Viejo Mundo. Habiendo cesado los Estados Unidos de exportar los mencionados productos para las repúblicas del Río de la Plata, se han convertido en exportadores para las mismas de productos manufacturados, indicando el cambio que se ha operado en la naturaleza de sus producciones. El resultado lógico de este movimiento comercial había de ser el establecimiento de facilidades bancarias y líneas de vapores entre los países productores y los de consumo.

De esta manera se despertó la curiosidad del Viejo Mundo en el desarrollo de las nuevas repúblicas productoras, creando así la inmigración para ellas que continúa todavía; y así se explica la existencia de intereses bancarios europeos y de líneas de vapores con Sud América y la falta de estos elementos de origen americano. No cree el

Señor BUCHANAN que este estado de cosas pueda continuar, sino que espera ver realizado pronto cambios en beneficio del desarrollo del comercio entre Sud América y los Estados Unidos, como parecen indicarlo el aumento rápido de la población de los Estados Unidos y la diminución de su ganado, por una parte, y por otra la baratura y excelencia de los productos argentinos y uruguayos en este ramo. Probablemente en el término de cinco años se venderán en los Estados Unidos las carnes del Río de la Plata, al paso que en el mismo lapso de tiempo los productos manufacturados de los Estados Unidos pueden haber suplantado los que del Viejo Mundo tienen consumo en Sud América. Todas las repúblicas de Sud América tienen problemas económicos por resolver y desean que, tanto el Viejo Mundo como los Estados Unidos, participen en los beneficios que produzcan el desarrollo de sus riquezas.

Por lo que respecta á los Estados Unidos, el conocimiento comercial de aquellos países, que hoy han adquirido, continuará desarrollándose, con el resultado de que los capitales americanos convergirán á los países del América del Sur para servir allí de palancas en el fomento de comercio. Se establecerán líneas de vapores bajo el pabellón americano, uniendo con lazos más estrechos todos los países del este continente; y á medida que disminuyan en los Estados Unidos las oportunidades de hacer dinero en la explotación de minas y de los bosques, el capital se dirigirá á la América del Sur. Para esto es necesario que continúe en aquellos países la existencia y la influencia de gobiernos estables, liberales y bien administrados, sin lo cual no puede conseguirse el éxito que se desea. Tan cierto es esto, que es un axioma decir que la paz, la legislación sabia, buenos tribunales y una administración honrada de los negocios públicos, son los resortes de mayor atracción que puede ofrecer un país á la inmigración, al capital y á la industria.

CARBÓN ARTIFICIAL EN ALEMANIA.

Mr. P. J. OSTERHAUS, Vicecónsul de los Estados Unidos en Mannheim, Alemania, avisa al Departamento de Estado que asistió á un ensayo del carbón artificial inventado por Mr. GEORGE MONTAG, y que tuvo ocasión de observar que es muy inflamable y que tiene en apariencia buenas condiciones caloríferas. Mr. MONTAG dice que cualquier clase de tierra puede usarse para preparar este carbón, con excepción de la arenisca, pero el Cónsul opina que solamente aquellas tierras que contienen substancias vegetales ó leñosas deben emplearse. Á fin de hacer la tierra inflamable, se mezclan con ella ciertos ingredientes, que son el secreto del inventor, pero como la preparación que resulta debe

tener las propiedades de la hulla, es fácil averiguar la naturaleza de dichos ingredientes, que deben ser substancias muy combustibles, tales como pez, resina, nafta ú otras semejantes.

Se pueden comprar en Mannheim cien kilogramos de dichos artículos por $2, pero solamente de 6 á 8 por ciento de los mismos se necesita para hacer 50 kilogramos de carbón artificial. Incluyendo el trabajo y los gastos generales, el costo de 50 kilogramos no pasa de 7 centavos. Á fin de apreciar lo barato de este artículo basta comparar los precios de las varias clases de hulla, que han sido durante el año de 17 á 27 centavos por 50 kilogramos. El carbón artificial es de un color negro gríseo, y lo preparan en forma de bloques de tres tamaños diferentes. Estos bloques son duros y quebradizos, y cuando se los arroja en el fuego arden con facilidad. El examen hecho de este carbón artificial dió el siguiente resultado:

	Por ciento.
Agua	14.79
Cenizas	17.73
Substancias combustibles	67.48

La cantidad de calor que produce está expresada de esta manera: Calóciro, 5.716.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del BOLETÍN MENSUAL se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

San Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

El Senhor Don MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, Primer Secretario de la Legación del Brasil en Wáshington, Miembro de la Academia Brasilera y de varios institutos científicos, acaba de publicar una interesante obra con el título "Nos Estados Unidos: Impressões Politicas e Sociaes." (F. A. Brockhaus. Leipzig, 1899.) Dicha obra, notable por el espíritu cosmopolita y la sinceridad que se nota en cada una de sus páginas, es quizás la más interesante que hasta ahora haya escrito un sudamericano con referencia á este país, é indica inteligencia, laboriosidad y estudio por parte del autor, que en los pocos años que ha llevado de residencia en los Estados Unidos ha sabido comprender tan bien el carácter americano y el mecanismo de sus instituciones políticas y sociales. La obra tiene 524 páginas y va precedida de una introducción explicativa de los móviles á que obedeció la preparación del libro, que no son otros que hacer conocer en el Brasil, en donde "se habla muy bien ó muy mal de los Estados Unidos," la dificultad de los problemas sociales y la grandeza de las instituciones de la gran República americana.

Los once capítulos de que consta la obra son los siguientes: El Problema Negro—Efectos de la Inmigración—Las Cualidades del Pueblo—La Influencia de la Mujer—La Sociedad—El Figurín Político—Catolicismo y Educación—Escritores Americanos—La Política Exterior—Relaciones del Brasil con los Estados Unidos—Política Colonial, y un apéndice que contiene varias notas referentes á la materia de que se trata en el cuerpo de la obra. No es éste el primer trabajo que ha publicado el Senhor LIMA, conocido ya por sus obras referentes al Brasil ó de carácter literario. El autor tiene en preparación otro libro con el título de "Ideas Fundamentaes da Politica Norte-Americana," que, á juzgar por la manera como trata la materia en el libro "Nos Estados Unidos," debe ser del mayor interés.

El "Kolonial Zeitung," correspondiente al 28 de setiembre de 1899, contiene un artículo escrito por el Dr. M. GÜRKE sobre la importancia del cultivo del ramio para las colonias alemanas en África. En el BOLETÍN MENSUAL se ha tratado en diversas épocas sobre el progreso que ha hecho dicho cultivo, y mucho de lo que el autor dice ahora se había publicado ya en los números del BOLETÍN correspondientes á mayo y marzo de 1894, junio de 1895, octubre de 1896, mayo y setiembre de 1897, enero y junio de 1898 y setiembre de 1899. Asegura el Dr. GÜRKE que el cultivo del ramio no ha dado buenos resultados en la América del Norte, Argelia, Egipto, Natal, la Isla de Mauricio y la de la Reunión á causa de las condiciones climatológicas, y que, en realidad, el cultivo de esa planta tiene que ser muy limitado, porque requiere un

clima cálido y húmedo. En el BOLETÍN MENSUAL se manifestó ya que México, la América Central y la del Sur se adaptan muy bien al cultivo del ramio.

En contestación á algunas observaciones hechas en el "Südamerikanische Rundschau" relativas á la supuesta discordia que existe entre los alemanes residentes en México, el Dr. C. BELOW ha publicado en el "Deutsche Kolonial Zeitung" una relación de las condiciones existentes, según él pudo observarlas en el país. Dice que la situación no es tan mala como ha sido presentada y cita numerosos incidentes relacionados con la vida social de sus compatriotas en México. Recomienda que el cuerpo consular alemán se haga más grande y más fuerte, y que barcos de guerra alemanes visiten con más frecuencia aquellos puertos á fin de que sea mayor la influencia de Alemania.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. NOVEMBRO DE 1899. No. 5.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

ESCASSEZ DE FACILIDADES DE TRANSPORTE PARA CEREAES.

Segundo informação recentemente mandada ao seu Governo pelo Consul francez em Cordoba, existem presentemente nos armazens da estrada de ferro entre Cordoba e Rosario 1,400,000 saccos de trigo ou milho, e nos armazens de outras estradas carregamentos igualmente importantes, todos a espera de embarque para a Europa. Assim acham-se nos da Central Argentina 560,000 saccos, na Buenos Ayres e Rosario, 150,000 saccos, e na franceza de Santa Fé, 60,000 saccos. Si a estas quantidades ajuntarmos 8,000 toneladas guardadas em armazens particulares e o dobro d'isto nas estações intermediarias da via ferrea, encontraremos um total de quasi 400,000 toneladas de cereaes que por falta de vapores e navios a vela disponiveis para o seu embarque, amontoam-se nos portos e estações de chegada, empatam as operações de transporte e armazenagem e retardam a chegada de novos carregamentos do interior.

As operações commerciaes igualmente acham-se paralysadas ou apenas podem ser executadas em condições desastrosas para os agricultores, pois que os exportadores recusam comprar o cereal aos preços correntes, receiando que continue a escassez de navios e conseguintemente a demora nos embarques. Ajunta o consul que os armadores estão presentemente cobrando em media 27 shillings por tonelada de frete, sendo para temer que no fim da colheita do milho o frete suba a 30 shillings, preço exhorbitante comparado com os correntes em outros paizes e com o de 15 shillings que durante o anno findo prevalecia na Argentina. Está calculado que o transporte das 400,000 toneladas destinadas a exportação necessitará cerca de 150 navios. Dos 100 navios chegados

no porto do Rio da Prata nos mezes de Agosto, Setembro e Outubro, apenas 60 ou 70 podiam carregar de cereaes. Isto significa que a proxima colheita de trigo encontrará a Republica Argentina com 200,000 toneladas de cereaes ainda não exportadas, dando em resultado a manutenção dos fretes elevados e na oneração do productor, pois está averiguado que o exportador fixa suas condições de venda de accordo com o custo do transporte.

A escassez de facilidades de transporte maritimo é na opinião do Senhor RENOZ devida a duas causas—a diminuição das importações e os altos direitos fiscaes pagos por navios nos portos argentinos sob a forma de taxas de ancoragem, de caes, etc.

A informação dada pelo Consul francez pode ser vantajosa aos armadores americanos, indicando a sua actividade um campo remunerador e digno de exploração mesmo por occasião de uma colheita media, mas especialmente de uma extraordinaria.

O Senhor RENOZ tambem informa seu Governo que um syndicato composto de 20 importantes moageiros da provincia de Buenos Ayres recentemente consolidou-se debaixo do nome "Sociedade Nacional de Moageiros," e que o presidente do syndicato, respondendo a uma communicação que lhe foi dirigida pelo ministro argentino no Brazil acerca da condição e futuro do commercio de farinha no seu paiz, respondera o seguinte: "Ainda que pareça a primeira vista que por motivo da grande distancia que tem de ser percorrida pelos navios que trazem farinhas norte americanas ao Brazil, nós devessemos levar vantagem em materia de frete, tal não acontece pois que os nossos concorrentes frequentemente mandam seus generos por navios de vela que carregam frete baixissimo, ao passo que nos argentinos somos compellidos a pagar fretes excessivos em razão da grande copia das exportações e da escassez de embarcações." Deduz-se d'esta carta que os armadores americanos poderiam extender mais suas operações, transportando carregamentos, sobretudo farinha para o Brazil.

BRAZIL.

OS IMMENSOS RECURSOS DA REPUBLICA.

Os interesses da vasta Republica do Brazil foram representados nas sessões pan-americanas do Congresso Commercial Internacional reunido em Philadelphia desde o dia 14 de Outubro até o dia 31 do mesmo mez pelo Capitão CORDEIRO DA GRAÇA, delegado do Brazil, e pelo Senhor ALFONSO A. RATIS, delegado do Estado de São Paulo. Aquelle deu uma descripção graphica da immensidade dos recursos do paiz e este o tratou sob o ponto de vista commercial.

Eis o resumo do discurso do Senhor Capitão CORDEIRO:

* * * "Para dar uma idea da riqueza natural que este paiz

offerece á actividade dos seus habitantes, basta mencionar os principaes productos naturaes que se podem exportar. A Republica de Guatemala tem uma população de 1,323,000, emquanto que o Estado do Pará tem sómente 700,000, mas em 1885 as exportações de Guatemala foram dez milhões menos que as do Pará. No mesmo anno as exportações da Republica da Bolivia, que tem uma população de 2,300,000, foram $12,000,000 menos que as do Pará, e as exportações da Colombia, que tem 3,000,000 de habitantes, não excederam ás do Pará—isto é, $17,000,000. As exportações do Equador são metade das do Pará; as do Peru (paiz que tem uma população de tres milhões) dous terços das do Pará.

"O valor total das exportações deste Estado, inclusive as do mez de Dezembro do anno passado, chegará a $20,000,000. Os principaes productos são borracha, cacao, nozes, couros, salsaparilha, oleo de copaiba, guaraná, nenhula, cumarú, baunilha, marfim vegetal, madeiras preciosas, essencias, passas e fructas. A parte septentrional do paiz produz ouro em abundancia. No anno de 1897 a producção da borracha no Estado do Pará só foi de 9,000 toneladas. A producção de cacao foi de 3,000 a 5,000 toneladas. A quantidade de tabaco exportada foi superior a 750 toneladas. A baunilha do Pará vende-se na França de dous até quatro dollares o kilogramma. As favas de cumarú exportam-se em grandes quantidades para a Europa.

"A instrucção publica divide-se em instrucção primaria, secundaria e technica. Existem na capital 49 escolas primarias e 585 no interior. Além destas ha escolas technicas e "O Lyceu" (escola superior), que prepara os alumnos para a Universidade. Devo mencionar tambem a Academia de Musica, a Escola de Bellas Artes, o Lyceu das Artes e Industrias e a Escola Normal.

"*Commercio e Navegação.*—O commercio de exportação do Pará é muito grande. A communicação entre o Pará e os portos dos Estados Unidos é boa e frequente, e é feita por duas linhas de vapores, a Red Cross Line e a Booth Line. O serviço directo com a Europa—isto é, com Liverpool, Antuerpia, Hamburgo, Havre, Lisboa, e Genoa—é feito por vapores francezes, inglezes, italianos, portuguezes, e allemães.

"Actualmente não ha navios americanos empregados neste serviço.

"*Bancos.*—Ha tres bancos inglezes no Pará: O British Bank, o London and River Plate Bank, e o London and Brazilian Bank. Tambem ha tres bancos nacionaes: O Banco do Pará, o Banco Commercial do Pará, e o Banco do Norte do Brazil.

"*Estado do Amazonas.*—Este Estado é o mais extenso da União. Sua riqueza natural é tão grande que dentro do espaço de cinco annos, Manáos, sua capital, transformou-se de uma pequena aldea em uma das mais agradaveis e lindas cidades da America, tendo contribuido muito para o seu desenvolvimento o espirito patriotico dos Governadores do Estado. A cidade tem lindas ruas e avenidas illuminadas á luz electrica, tramways de trolley, edificios publicos, excellentes escolas, e

apezar das grandes despezas ha sempre depositados na Thesouraria cerca de tres milhões de dollares. A receita para este anno foi orçada em sete e meio milhões de dollares, somma que já foi realizada pelas receitas dos primeiros quatro mezes. A população do Estado é de só 200,000. O Estado do Amazonas sob a administração do Coronel RAMALHO tem feito grandes progressos.

"*Maranhão.*—Maranhão é um Estado de grande riqueza mas até agora pouco explorado. Produz cereaes em grandes quantidades e exporta productos naturaes em quantidade consideravel para a Europa. Este Estado podia fornecer borracha em abundancia mas ainda a industria é pouco explorada. O Estado não tem dividas, nem exteriores, nem interiores.

"*Pernambuco.*—Este Estado produz em grande quantidade, assucar, algodão e couros. Tem uma excellente rede de vias ferreas que estendem-se para o interior e penetram nas florestas virgens. Ha grande actividade nos negocios deste Estado.

"Bahia é um dos mais formosos Estados da União. Possue ricas minas de ouro. Outros productos são canna de assucar, café, madeiras preciosas, algodão e tabaco.

"Espirito Santo e Rio de Janeiro são os maiores productores do café. Espirito Santo é ainda pouco explorado, mas o Estado do Rio de Janeiro é já atravessado por um bom systema de estradas de ferro. Rio de Janeiro, a capital da União, está situada em uma das mais lindas bahias do mundo. Seu commercio é enorme e o maior em toda a America do Sul. A febre amarella existe na cidade durante os quatro mezes mais quentes, mas ainda assim, a mortalidade, comparada com a das cidades mais salubres do mundo, é muito pequena. Os suburbios do Rio são considerados os mais lindos do mundo. Tijuca e Corcovado teem uma altura de 700 e 2,200 metros, respectivamente. Petropolis está situada a 3,000 pés acima do nivel do mar, e á distancia de quarenta e cinco minutos por via ferrea da capital. Os estrangeiros residem alli onde não se encontra a febre amarella.

"Devo mencionar tambem a grande obra de engenharia, a Estrada de Ferro Central do Brazil, que foi construida sob a direcção de um brazileiro, ajudado por varios engenheiros americanos. Mas isto foi nos bons tempos d'outr'ora quando os Estados Unidos ainda enviavam para o Brazil, suas vigas e braços de ferro, materiaes para pontes, etc. Agora este commercio tem succumbido á concorrencia de CREUZOT E KRUPP.

"*Minas.*—Agora vou mencionar o Estado de Minas. Si tenho fallado com tanto enthusiasmo do Pará, o que posso dizer de Minas? Este Estado tem um clima excellente e produz, além do café, bananas e laranjas, todas as fructas da Europa. Posso dizer sem receio de contradicção que Minas é a California do Brazil. O solo é fertil e encerra incalculaveis thesouros de ouro, diamantes e mineraes. O ferro e manganez são encontrados muito puros e exportados em grande quantidade

para a Inglaterra, França, Belgica, e os Estados Unidos. As estradas de ferro e a navegação dos rios facilitarão o desenvolvimento deste grande Estado.

"São Paulo tem uma enorme rede de estradas de ferro. Sua producção de café é quasi igual á de todos os outros Estados juntos. A industria do café tem sido explorada com prejuizo das outras culturas. Santos é o grande porto de sahida deste Estado. Ultimamente tem sido muito melhorado pela construcção de caes, a que os grandes vapores trans-atlanticos podem chegar directamente.

"Paraná é o Estado das pastagens. O clima é muito suave, ficando o Estado na zona temperada. Os grãos, assim como o café, podem ser cultivados. Os pinheiros abundam neste Estado, assim como nos Estados de Santa Catharina e Rio Grande do Sul. O principal producto do Paraná é o matte, uma bebida tendo todas as boas qualidades do café e do chá sem ter seus defeitos. Exporta-se este producto em grandes quantidades para o Chile e a Argentina.

"Santa Catharina está quasi na mesma condição que o Estado do Paraná, mas goza das vantagens de uma colonização allemã, que tem trazido a esté Estado grande prosperidade.

"*Rio Grande do Sul.*—Agora passemos a este importante Estado de criação, com suas immensas pastagens, percorrido por grandes rios navegaveis, onde a fertilidade do solo é enorme. É colonizado por allemães e italianos, os quaes dão-se muito bem alli.

"*Matto Grosso.*—Este Estado, que promette um grande porvenir, ainda tem sido pouco explorado. Neste Estado encontram-se em grande quantidade ouro, diamantes, fibras, ipecacuanha e, sobretudo, borracha semelhante á do Amazonas. Encontram-se nos campos grandes manadas de gado. Aqui um homem robusto, sem fundos, pode ficar rico dentro de cinco annos. A ipecacuanha que se vende na Inglaterra a 18 schillings a libra e que acaba de ser exposta á venda nos mercados americanos, assim como a borracha deste Estado, teem attrahido a attenção universal.

"Ficão ainda os Estados de Sergipe, Piauhy, e Goyaz. Estes Estados teem immensos recursos naturaes, os quaes ainda teem sido pouco explorados.

"*Exportação.*—O principal producto de exportação no Brazil é o café. Em 1897, o Brazil exportou 25,500,000 libras de borracha; em 1898, 22,600,000 libras, e em 1899, até o dia 30 de Setembro, 18,500,000 libras. Não ha outro paiz do mundo que possa offerecer aos Estados Unidos um mercado tão excellente para suas manufacturas, emprezas bancarias, de vias ferreas e de navegação, do que a Republica do Brazil. Para dar uma idea do seu commercio posso dizer que o Brazil occupa o quarto lugar entre as nações que exportam para os Estados Unidos. Em 1897 o Brazil exportou para os Estados Unidos 569,626,828 libras de café, e em 1898, 604,629,040 libras.

"A estes productos que se exportam devem-se juntar os couros, pelles,

madeiras, assucar, manganez, cacao, conchas, oleos e muitos outros artigos. Si considerarmos que estas centenas de milhares de toneladas são embarcadas em navios estrangeiros e que navio algum americano é empregado neste trafico; si considerarmos que estas enormes transacções effectuam-se pelas instituições de credito de Londres, a que os americanos teem de pagar grande quantia em commissões além de avultadas sommas ás companhias de navegação estrangeiras por fretes, seguros, etc., será evidente que ha grande campo para as emprezas americanas. Por quanto tempo, meus amigos, fechareis os olhos a estes factos? Sem facilidades de transporte não é possivel fazer concurrencia neste commercio com os paizes da Europa.

"*Importação no Brazil dos Estados Unidos.*—Dentro do espaço de dez annos as exportações dos Estados Unidos para o Brazil augmentaram-se de seis e meio a treze milhões. Os principaes artigos importados são trigo, farinha de trigo, cereaes, oleos mineraes e, em pequena quantidade, ferro e aço e fazendas de lã e de algodão." * * *

Fallando dos interesses do café do Brazil, o Senhor RATIS disse:

* * * "São Paulo tem em Santos o porto de maior exportação de café do mundo. Este Estado, com uma area de 106,939 milhas quadradas e uma população de 2,500,000, pode ser considerado como o Estado agricola modelo do Brazil, especialmente porque nenhum outro Estado tem offerecido tantas vantagens para a immigração ou feito tantos sacrificios para o desenvolvimento da lavoura. Dos 14,700,000 de saccos de café que representam a colheita total universal em 1897–98, o Brazil produziu cerca de 11,000,000 de saccos, dos quaes quatro quintas partes vieram do Estado de São Paulo.

"A receita deriva-se principalmente dos direitos de exportação sobre o café que se pagam no momento do seu embarque para os portos estrangeiros. Os Estados Unidos, que são o paiz maior comprador do café, o admittem livre de direitos, considerando-o uma bebida nacional necessaria ás classes trabalhadoras como um artigo de alimentação. Os Estados Unidos importam annualmente do Brazil café, borracha e outros productos no valor de $54,000,000, ao passo que exportam para este paiz productos no valor de só $14,000,000.

"Para estabelecer relações commerciaes mais estreitas entre o Brazil e os Estados Unidos se necessita que se inaugure uma linha de vapores americanos e se estabeleça um banco americano no Brazil, pelo qual todas as negociações commerciaes possam ser feitas.

"Outro producto que o Brazil, e especialmente o Estado de São Paulo, podia consumir em enormes quantidades é o carvão, que se encontra particularmente no Estado de Pennsylvania em depositos quasi inexgotaveis. Cardiff tem gozado do monopolio deste trafico, ainda que o producto de Pennsylvania seja igual em qualidade ao britannico e, além disto, mais barato.

"São Paulo tem uma industria muito importante em productos de algodão. O algodão é cultivado em todo o Estado, e pode fazer concurrencia com o da Inglaterra ou da Allemanha.

"O fabrico de chapéos de feltro tambem tem assumido grandes proporções. Fabricam-se chapéos não só para o consumo local, mas tambem para os outros Estados. Ha tambem uma fabrica que manufactura os saccos de juta em que se exporta o café.

"Ha immensas cascatas cujas aguas são esperdiçadas, as quaes podiam fornecer força motora para muitos estabelecimentos industriaes.

"São Paulo possue fabricas de cerveja que representam um capital de milhões de dollares. Não muito distante da capital está situada a unica fabrica de cimento de Portland que existe na America do Sul. Este estabelecimento vai passar em breve para uma companhia americana e se espera que possa supprir não só o mercado local, mas tambem outros pontos do Brazil."

PRODUCÇÃO UNIVERSAL DO OURO E PRATA.

Os algarismos officiaes relativos á producção universal do ouro e prata no anno de 1898 foram dados ao publico pela Casa da Moeda dos Estados Unidos no dia 26 de Outubro de 1899, e fornecem interessantes informações sobre a producção desses metaes nos ultimos tres annos.

Avalia-se em $287,428,600 a producção total do ouro em 1898, vindo em primeiro lugar a Republica Sul-Africana, e seguindo quasi na mesma proporção a Australasia e os Estados Unidos. Depois vem por ordem a Russia, o Canadá, a India, o Mexico e a China, fornecendo os oito paizes mencionados 94 por cento do total.

O seguinte quadro demonstra a producção do ouro e prata nos paizes pan-americanos durante os tres ultimos annos:

OURO.

Paizes.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Estados Unidos	$53,088,000	$57,363,000	$64,463,000
Mexico	6,500,000	7,500,000	8,500,000
Argentina	315,000	137,700	137,700
Bolivia	250,300	343,500	343,500
Brazil	1,001,100	1,204,200	1,583,700
Chile	611,000	340,000	340,700
Colombia	2,200,100	2,227,200	2,263,200
Equador	132,900	132,900	39,500
Peru	116,600	628,000	628,000
Uruguay	33,600	38,500	38,500
Venezuela	948,500	1,057,400	1,057,400
America Central	372,300	465,800	473,700

PRATA.

	Onças.	*Onças.*	*Onças.*
Estados Unidos	58,834,800	53,860,000	54,438,000
Mexico	45,718,982	53,903,180	56,738,000
Argentina	328,170	383,479	383,479
Bolivia	6,374,240	8,204,568	8,204,568
Chile	3,236,536	2,591,998	2,591,998
Colombia	3,407,004	5,047,328	5,483,717
Equador	7,734	7,734	7,734
Peru	3,847,078	3,278,602	1,951,240
America Central	808,676	811,892	716,008

Pode-se formar uma idea do enorme augmento de producção de ouro nos ultimos doze annos considerando que, em 1887, a producção total era de 106 milhões de dollares, e em 1892 havia subido a 146 milhões, isto é, ao maximo conhecido na historia do mundo. Calcula-se que a producção de 1898 é oito vezes maior do que a producção do ouro ao tempo das descobertas da California (1849). O consumo do ouro nas artes e manufacturas é avaliado em 65 milhões, deixando um excedente de 222 milhões disponiveis para moeda.

PRODUCÇÃO UNIVERSAL DO TRIGO EM 1899.

Os calculos referentes á producção universal do trigo no anno de 1899 fornecidos pelo elaborador de estatisticas inglez, Senhor BROOMHALL, indicam uma diminuição geral em todas as partes. Esta feição não se limita aliás á producção do trigo sómente, mas estende-se a quasi todos os outros cereaes. Segundo a auctoridade citada, a colheita total de trigo no mundo é de 2,496,000,000 bushels, o que mostra uma diminuição de 390,000,000 comparado com o anno passado e um excesso de 226,000,000 bushels comparado com 1897. A diminuição maior deu-se nas Americas onde se aponta um decrescimo de 18.6 por cento ou seja uma differença de 168,000,000 bushels. O decrescimo na Europa é quasi igual em quantidade, 163,000,000 bushels, mas a proporção excede apenas ligeiramente de 10 por cento. Á Asia attribue-se um decrescimo de 11 por cento, á Africa de 30 por cento e á Australasia 16 por cento.

As reservas apparentes e não apparentes de trigo, sobras da colheita inexcedida do anno passado, são comtudo maiores que as dos annos precedentes e compensarão os futuros preços. A estimativa de BROOMHALL orça a reserva de trigo em 240,000,000 bushels mais do que o anno passado, mas diante do decrescimo de 390,000,000 bushels de producção, pode-se antever com certeza que todos os supprimentos aproveitaveis serão requeridos.

Outro ponto para o que a attenção foi chamada pelo seminario de Bradstreets, ao commentar a situação do trigo, é o grande accrescimo nos fretes maritimos resultante do emprego de navios por fins de transporte pelo Governo Britannico. Tal accrescimo foi consideravel e equivale a um augmento especial de varios centavos nos preços do trigo, cujas carregamentas são compellidas a competir com o commercio geral de exportação em materia de fretes para a Europa. Esta condição serve para explicar, até certo ponto, a congestão no trafico do trigo que se está dando na Argentina e á qual fez-se referencia neste numero do BOLETIM.

O MERCADO AMERICANO DE CAFÉ.

A seguinte informação sobre as condições e exigencias do mercado de café nos Estados Unidos foi recentemente apresentada ao Congresso Internacional Commercial de Philadelphia e faz parte da sua acta de sessão de 12 de Outubro de 1899. O auctor, Senhor A. M. WOOLSON, do Ohio, fornece aos productores em busca de mercado para seus cafés muitas suggestões valiosas, conforme se pode ver da seguinte transcripção:

O mercado americano de café é sem duvida alguma o melhor do mundo, pela simples razão que nós bebemos mais café que qualquer outro paiz. De accordo com o resumo estatistico publicado este anno pelo Governo dos Estados Unidos nós importamos no anno findo a 30 de Junho de 1898, 6,451,000 saccas de café, ou 370,514,455 libras, subindo a $65,067,631 tomando o custo medio de 7.4 centavos por libra, o que perfaz um consumo avaliado em 11.45 libras por cabeça.

Estes algarismos indicam que nós consumimos quasi tanto café como a Allemanha, França, Austria, Belgica, Hollanda, Russia, Inglaterra, e outros paizes combinados. Por isso pode-se pretender com enteira segurança que o mercado americano de café é o mais importante de todos. É de presumir que os delegados estrangeiros desejem saber como os negociantes americanos se tornam possuidores de tanto café. Em relação a isto direi que antes de 1860 os commerciantes a retalho compravam o café verde e era elle torrado nas casas dos compradores; porem o genio inventivo e a pericia do mechanico americano aperfeiçoaram os antigos processos de torrefacção com manifesta vantagem dos consumidores, e a percepção d'estas vantagens levou a construcção de varios grandes estabelecimentos de torrar café. O povo acostumou-se assim rapidamente a comprar café torrado em vez de verde, pois é natural ao Americano descartar-se de quejandas responsabilidades.

Esta industria desenvolveu-se n'uma extensão tal que presentemente 90 por cento de todo o café importado no paiz é vendido pelos commerciantes ao consumidor depois de torrado. Demais isto offerece real beneficio ao consumidor pois a torrefacção é feita por individuos peritos na profissão, perfeitamente apparelhados com todas as machinas necessarias e facilidades de executar o processo do qual resulta um producto uniforme e mais desejavel. Alguns poucos lugares no Sul parecem adherir com a maxima tenacidade ao consumo directo do café verde, mas no Norte, Leste, e Oeste o café torrado virtualmente monopoliza o campo.

É para lamentar que tanto do café importado contenha pequenas pedras, ou como nós as chamamos diamantes do Brazil; isto obriga o torrefactor a separar por machina estas substancias estranhas. A media é de quasi uma libra de pedras por sacca. O productor que nós manda o café mais limpo é recompensado com a classificação mais alta e conseguintemente melhor preço obtido pelo seu producto. Temos usado

centenares de toneladas d'essas pedras vindas com o café em calçar nossas ruas e passeios. Sem duvida muitos productores pensão que o café misturado com pedras lhes rende mais, o que é um erro pois o café verde é todo classificado por peritos que collocam o café com pedras abaixo do café livre de impurezas.

NOTICIAS BIBLIOGRAPHICAS.

Os livros e folhetos offerecidos á Bibliotheca que se referem a assumptos com relação aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas se mencionam nesta secção. A permuta de publicações com as do Brazil effectua-se por meio do Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., que as envia á Bibliotheca Nacional do Rio de Janeiro.

O Senhor MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, primeiro secretario da Legação do Brazil em Washington, membro da Academia Brazileira e de varios estabelecimentos scientificos, acaba de publicar uma interessante obra sob o titulo "Nos Estados Unidos: Impressões politicas e sociaes." (F. A. Brockhaus. Leipzig, 1899.) Esta obra, notavel em razão do espirito cosmopolita e da sinceridade que transparece em cada uma das suas paginas, é talvez a mais interessante que até agora ha sido escripta por um Sul-Americano acerca d'este paiz, e denota a intelligencia, actividade e estudo do seu auctor, o qual nos poucos annos que conta de residencia nos Estados Unidos conseguio comprehender perfeitamente o caracter americano e o mechanismo das suas instituições politicas e sociaes. A obra abrange 524 paginas, precedidas de um prefacio explicativo dos intuitos do livro; que são tornar conhecidas no Brazil, "onde se falla ou muito bem ou muito mal dos Estados Unidos," a difficuldade dos problemas sociaes e a grandeza das instituições da grande Republica norte-americana.

Os onze capitulos em que se divide o livro teem as seguintes epigraphes: O Problema Negro—Effeitos da Immigração—As Qualidades do Povo—A Influencia da Mulher—A Sociedade—O Figurino Politico—O Catholicismo e a Educação—Escriptores Americanos—Politica Externa—Relações do Brazil com os Estados Unidos—Politica Colonial. Ha mais um appendice contendo varias notas relativas a assumptos tratados no corpo do livro. Não é este o primeiro trabalho publicado pelo Senhor OLIVEIRA LIMA, que já é bem conhecido pelas suas obras relativas ao Brazil ou de indole litteraria. O auctor está preparando outro livro com o titulo "Idéas Fundamentaes da Politica Norte-Americana," que deve ser do maximo interesse a julgar pelo modo pelo qual se acha tratado o assumpto no livro "Nos Estados Unidos."

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. NOVEMBRE 1899. No. 5.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

RARETÉ DES VAPEURS POUR L'EXPORTATION DES CÉRÉALES ARGENTINES.

D'après les informations que M. le Consul de France, à Cordoba, a adressées récemment à son gouvernement, il existe actuellement dans les dépôts du chemin de fer de Cordoba à Rosaris 1,400,000 sacs de blé ou de maïs; dans ceux du Central Argentin 560,000 sacs; dans ceux de Bueno-Aires et Rosario 150,000 sacs, et dans ceux du chemin de fer français de Santa-Fé 60,000 sacs, qui attendent leur expédition pour l'Europe.

Si, à cette quantité, on ajoute celle de 8,000 tonnes déposées dans des granges particulières et deux fois autant dans les gares intermédiaires des réseaux ferrés, on arrive à une quantité approximative de 400,000 tonnes de céréales qui, faute de voiliers et de vapeurs disponibles pour leur embarquement, encombrent les ports et les stations d'arrivée, rendent difficiles les opérations de traction et d'emmagasinage et retardent l'arrivée de nouveaux convois venant de l'intérieur. Les transactions en sont même paralysées ou ne s'opèrent que dans des conditions désastreuses pour les agriculteurs puisque les exportateurs se refusent à acheter le grain aux prix courants, de crainte que la rareté des navires ne se perpétue et ne les empêche d'assurer, avant longtemps, l'expédition à l'extérieur de leurs commandes. Les armateurs, dit le consul, font payer actuellement, en moyenne, 27 shillings par tonne de fret, et il est à craindre, ajoute-t-il, qu'à la clôture de la récolte du maïs ils demanderont 30 shillings, prix vraiment excessif si on le compare à celui exigé par les chargeurs opérant en d'autres pays et à celui en cours l'année dernière, à pareille époque, et qui atteignait à peine 15 shillings.

On calcule que le transport des 400,000 tonnes de céréales actuellement destinées à l'exportation nécessitera environ 150 navires. Or, dans le courant des mois d'août, septembre et octobre, il arrivera dans les ports du Rio de la Plata 100 vapeurs dont 60 à 70 seulement pourront charger du grain. Il s'ensuit que la prochaine récolte de blé surprendra l'Argentine avec 200,000 tonnes de céréales non encore exportées, fait qui aura pour résultat de maintenir la cherté du fret et de grever les dépenses du producteur; et il est en effet avéré que l'exportateur fixe ses conditions d'achat suivant le prix plus ou moins élevé du fret. Le Consul dit que cette rareté toujours croissante de navires a pour causes: d'une part la diminution de l'importation, de l'autre les droits fiscaux très élevés que paient les bâtiments dans les ports argentins, sous forme de droits d'ancrage, de séjour, de quai, etc.

Les renseignements ci-dessus mentionnés par M. le Consul de France peuvent servir d'avertissement utile aux armateurs américains, et indiquent à leur activité un champ fructueux à exploiter surtout les années de bonne récolte et même de récolte moyenne.

Le Consul de France informe aussi son gouvernement qu'un syndicat composé des vingt principaux meuniers de la province de Buenos-Ayres s'est dernièrement constitué, sous le nom de "Société nationale des fabricants de farine," et que le président de ce syndicat, en réponse à une note que lui avait adressée le Ministre de la République Argentine au Brésil, relativement à la situation et à l'avenir du commerce des farines dans le pays de sa résidence, vient de lui envoyer une lettre dans laquelle il lui signale ce qui suit:

"Bien qu'à première vue on puisse croire que, vu la plus grande distance qu'ont à parcourir les bâtiments qui transportent au Brésil les farines de l'Amérique du Nord, nous possédions, en faveur des nôtres, un avantage en ce qui concerne le coût du fret, il n'en est pas ainsi pourtant, puisque nos rivaux envoient bien souvent leur marchandise par voiliers et en payant un fret très bas, tandis qu'ici, par suite de la grande abondance des produits d'exportation et la rareté des navires, nous devons payer un fret trop élevé."

Ainsi que le démontre la lettre ci-dessus, les armateurs américains auraient une autre occasion d'étendre leurs opérations sur le fret à destination du Brésil, notamment les farines.

BRÉSIL.

GISEMENTS MONAZIFÈRES.

Bahia.—Des gisements monazifères d'une grande importance viennent d'être découverts à Bahia dans la propriété de Mr. Passos fils, député de cet Etat; on les croit plus riches en métaux rares que les fameux sables de Prado explorés également de Bahia. Diverses analyses d'échantillons ont été faites, et d'un kilog. de minerai il été a retiré: 140

grammes d'oxalate de corium, 305 grammes de sulfate de thorium, 120 grammes d'oxalate de zincornium, 95 grammes de corbonate de cerium, 20 grammes de fer et 420 grammes de micaline, de chaux et d'argile.

IMPORTATIONS DE POMMES DE TERRE ET DE LÉGUMES AU BRÉSIL.

La légation de Belgique au Brésil vient d'écrire à son gouvernement que l'apparition de la peste à Porto a rendu impossible l'importation au Brésil de certains articles, tels que les pommes de terre, les oignons, les fruits, les conserves alimentaires, etc., que le Portugal expédiait auparavant en très grandes quantités dans ce pays. Pour la pomme de terre, le prix à Rio de Janeiro a augmenté récemment de 50 pour cent (15 milreis au lieu de 10), et le moment semble favorable pour les exportateurs des Etats-Unis pour chercher à placer ces articles sur le marché du Brésil.

En 1898, les exportations de pommes de terre de Belgique se sont élevées à 156,823,404 kilogrammes, dont 345,650 kilogrammes ont été expédiés au Brésil.

Il résulte, d'autre part, d'une communication du Consul de France à Bahia, que la situation est la même dans cette ville et qu'il y a lieu de croire qu'elle durera encore quelque temps.

Les principales maisons de la place de Bahia se livrant à l'importation des pommes de terre, aulx, oignons, fruits, conserves alimentaires, huiles et vins, sont les suivantes: CONDE FILHO & CIE.; BERNARDO LOPES & CIE.; MOTTA SILVA & CIE.; SILVA & CIE.; FORTUNATO PINHO AVELAR & CIE.; CASTILLO BRANCO FERREIRA; MATHEUS DOS SANTOS & CIE.

CHILI.

LE PORT DE PUNTA ARENAS.

"Le Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" du 28 septembre 1899 publie un article très intéressant sur les conditions présentes et futures de Punta Arenas qui peut-être rangée parmi les villes de l'Amérique du Sud qui se développent avec une rapidité presque phénoménale. Il y a peu d'années, Punta Arenas était tout bonnement un petit village avec quelques pauvres maisons; à présent, il est en train de devenir une grande ville avec des édifices splendides, de larges rues éclairées à l'électricité et présentant un aspect général florissant. En outre des constructions spacieuses où se trouvent des clubs et les administrations publiques, on y a bâti récemment un théâtre qui égale en dimensions et en élégance ceux de Santiago et de Valparaiso.

Le territoire de Magellan, qui a près de 200 kilomètres carrés, abonde de toutes espèces de richesses agricoles et le stock du bétail s'accroît remarquablement chaque année. Il existe à Punta Arenas un grand

marché pour les commerçants en laine, peaux, bœuf (salé et sec), graisse et suif. On estime qu'il y a dans ce territoire de 60,000 à 100,000 têtes de bétail, de la valeur de 30 shillings à 2 livres sterling par tête que l'on peut envoyer en Europe ou utiliser dans les usines de viande conservée établies dans le district. A Punta Delgada, WALDRON et WOOD ont déja fondé un établissement de ce genre qui marche très bien. Il y aurait également de bonnes affaires pour la tannerie.

On estime que l'année dernière on a exporté de Punta Arenas des peaux de vache et de bœuf pour près de 200,000 dollars; il y a également eu une exportation considérable de peaux de mouton. Si ce district continue à se développer dans les mêmes proportions que les dernières années, le Chili prendra bientôt rang parmi les plus grands producteurs de laine du monde. De nombreux steamers appartenant aux lignes européennes font escale mensuellement à Punta Arenas et le Gouvernement chilien, en vue de faire face aux nécessités de ce port, inaugurera sous peu, entre Valparaiso et Punta Arenas, un service pour voyageurs et marchandises avec les deux transports *Casena* et *Angamos*. À présent les allemands occupent la première place pour le commerce dans ce port, qui mérite l'attention des autres nations.

PROJET DE CONSTRUCTION D'UN BASSIN DANS LE PORT DE VALPARAISO.

Le Consul de France à Valparaiso a fait connaître à son Gouvernement que les dernières tempêtes ont détruit en grande partie les quais du port de cette ville et rendu nécessaire la construction d'un bassin.

Un exemplaire (texte espagnol) du projet présenté à cet effet au Gouvernement chilien par la Compagnie des docks flottants, est déposé à "l'Office national du commerce extérieur," 3, rue Feydeau (Paris), où les intéressés pourront en prendre connaissance tous les jours non fériés, de 10 heures à midi et de 2 heures à 5 heures.

COLOMBIE.

FAITS DIVERS.

Une compagnie anonyme au capital de $4,000,000 est en formation pour établir à Medellin une importante fabrique de tissus de coton.

Il résulte d'un rapport adressé au Ministre de l'intérieur de cette République, par la Direction de la statistique nationale de ce même pays, que les exportations par les ports colombiens au cours de l'année 1898 se sont élevées à $19,735,733.84 or, et les importations à $11,346,028.12 or. La balance commerciale pour ladite année se solde donc par une somme de $8,389,705.72 or, en faveur de la Colombie.

GUATEMALA.

DROITS DE RÉEMBARQUEMENT DES MARCHANDISES ÉTRANGÈRES.

Un arrêté du Président de la République de Guatemala en date du 6 septembre 1899, dispose, qu'à compter du même jour, on percevra dans les douanes des ports de la République deux pesos par kilogramme de poids brut pour droits de réembarquement sur les marchandises étrangères. Antérieurement, la taxe de réembarquement était seulement de 1 peso par 50 kilog. de marchandises, poids brut.

HAÏTI.

PERSPECTIVES AGRICOLES ET COMMERCIALES.

Le futur développement d'Haïti, d'après les conditions existantes, a formé le sujet du discours que M. J. NICOLAS, Consul-Général de la République d'Haïti à New York, a prononcé devant le Congrès Commercial International à Philadelphie. Ce fonctionnaire a donné de nombreux détails très intéressants sur les progrès intellectuels et politiques de ce pays qui indiquent le caractére énergique de cette République et a exprimé le désir prédominant des habitants de resserrer plus étroitement les liens d'amitié qui les unissent au peuple des Etats-Unis.

En parlant de la perspective agricole et commerciale, ce fonctionnaire s'exprime ainsi:

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"Les principaux articles exportés d'Haïti sont: le café, le cacao, le bois de campêche, le bois d'acajou, le bois jaune, le coton, la cire, le miel, les peaux et les cuirs, le bois de gaïac, la gomme de gaïac, les coquillages de mer, les écailles de tortue, les écorces d'orange, le gingembre, le rhum, etc.

"La dépréciation du prix courant du café a affecté Haïti de même que les autres pays qui produisent le café. C'est pour cette raison, due à l'excès de production, que Haïti a commencé à donner une nouvelle impulsion à son agriculture en lançant l'industrie sucrière, la culture du tabac, celles du ricin et du coton, toutes sur une assez vaste échelle.

"Malgré la grande consommation du pays, Haïti exporte annuellement de 70,000,000 à 86,000,000 livres de café, et afin de soutenir avantageusement la concurrence des autres marchés productifs et surtout pour maintenir la place que son café a toujours occupée sur les marchés européens où il est préféré à cause de son parfum et de son goût exquis, le Gouvernement a encouragé l'établissement de machines pour

nettoyer et le préparer proprement pour l'exploitation. Les machines ont été achetées pour la plupart aux États-Unis. Il existe cependant encore un champ ouvert pour de nouvelles demandes de machines, demandes qui deviendront de plus en plus nombreuses au fur et à mesure que la concurrence deviendra de plus en plus active.

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"En prenant l'année 1893 comme moyenne, le total du commerce extérieur d'Haïti s'est monté à $19,770,867.91, les exportations figurant pour $12,163,059 et les importations pour $7,607,817, sans compter l'importation spécifique de $1,131,235 en or américain.

"Pour se faire une idée de l'importance du développement du commerce de Haïti avec les Etats-Unis, il faut remarquer que l'importation des produits américains est plus grande que toutes les importations réunies de France, d'Angleterre et d'Allemagne.

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"En 1872 les importations des Etats-Unis s'élevaient à $2,487,210; en 1893 elles se montaient à $5,389,169.05. On peut ainsi voir que les importations des Etats-Unis ont presque triplé en vingt et un ans, une preuve convaincante que le commerce avec les Etats-Unis a augmenté considérablement. Ce développement augmentera au fur et à mesure que Haïti construira des chemins de fer qui lui permettront de faire connaître et d'exploiter les ressources des localités les plus éloignées.

"C'est aux Etats-Unis que les rails et les locomotives pour le chemin de fer du Cap Haïtien ont été achetées; c'est aussi là que cette République s'est procurée tout le matériel pour les tramways de Port-au-Prince et de Aux Cayes; c'est aussi aux Etats-Unis que M. B. PROPHETE, concessionnaire du nouveau chemin de fer a l'intention de s'adresser pour ses matériaux, et c'est là que le Gouvernement d'Haïti a acheté ses ponts et le matériel pour ses fonderies et son bassin à radoub à Port au Prince.

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"Pendant les trois années qui viennent de s'écouler, la production du cacao et du coton a doublé.

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"En dehors de la culture du tabac et de l'industrie sucrière qui, comme il a été déjà dit plus haut, ont été reprises sur une vaste échelle, il existe dans le pays des savonneries, des chandelleries, des fabriques d'allumettes et de glace, des brasseries, des fabriques de vermicelle, de macaroni, de faïence, des briqueteries et des manufactures de cigares. Les fabriques d'alcool et de rhum sont plus particulièrement les spécialités des villes de Port-au-Prince et de Aux Cayes.

"Des mines de charbon, de fer, de porphyre, de gypse, de soufre et d'autres minéraux ont été découvertes et on sait qu'elles existent dans les différentes parties du pays. On va bientôt en exploiter une de fer et de gypse. A cet effet, une compagnie, au capital de cinq millions de dollars ($5,000,000) a été récemment organisée à New-York et ses

ingénieurs sont déjà sur place et à la besogne. On anticipe avec confiance que ces deux articles trouveront un marché aux Etats-Unis, les demandes pour le fer devenant de plus en plus importantes. Quant au gypse, Haïti a l'avantage sur la Nouvelle-Ecosse qui fournit cet article aux Etats-Unis, en étant capable de le délivrer pendant toutes les saisons de l'année.

"Haïti est en communication avec tous les pays civilisés du monde par deux câbles sous-marins: l'un, le câble transatlantique français; l'autre, la compagnie du câble des Etats-Unis et d'Haïti.

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"La question de crédit est un obstacle au développement du commerce entre Haïti et les Etats-Unis, et il serait à désirer que les fabricants prolongeassent le crédit afin que les acheteurs pussent faire profiter des mêmes privilèges les marchands d'Haïti.

"Les personnes qui ont parcouru l'Amérique Centrale et les Antilles, vous diront que les trois mois de crédit qui sont généralement accordés par les maisons de commission américaines, sont insuffisants pour ces pays.

"Nul ne peut espérer trouver dans ces pays l'énergie notable qui est déployée à Chicago et à New York dans les affaires. C'est pourquoi il serait à désirer que, comme en Europe, les maisons de commission accordassent au moins neuf mois de crédit aux marchands de ces pays.

"Il existe encore une autre défectuosité, c'est la paucité ou le manque d'un système d'agiotage entre Haïti et les Etats-Unis.

MEXIQUE.

LE COMMERCE DU BOIS DANS L'ÉTAT DE TABASCO.

L'État de Tabasco est celui où l'exploitation des bois précieux a pris depuis longtemps le plus d'importance. Le terrain si fertile y produisait des arbres d'une grosseur extraordinaire, et leur transport jusqu'à la mer était facile, grâce au magnifique réseau de cours d'eau qui sillonne le pays. Mais l'exploitation, faite souvent d'une manière inconsidérée, a fini par déboiser les forêts, au moins dans leurs parties accessibles, des beaux échantillons de cèdres et d'acajous. Il n'y reste plus maintenant que des arbres de seconde qualité, c'est-à-dire de moins de dix-huit pouces, et les principaux exploitants de San-Juan-Bautista ont dû transporter leur industrie au delà des limites de Tabasco, dans le nord de Chiapas, jusqu'au Guatemala.

Certaines maisons y ont acheté des forêts à l'Etat en toute propriété, d'autres ont conclu avec lui des contrats en vertu desquels elles ont acquis le droit exclusif, durant un temps déterminé, d'abattre les cèdres et acajous dans les régions dont la concession leur est donnée. Ce contrat donne aux concessionnaires le droit de couper les cèdres et

acajous ayant au moins deux mètres de circonférence à la base, d'exploiter les arbres à caoutchouc, ainsi que les autres gommes et résines. La redevance est d'une demi piastre par cèdre ou acajou, de 24 piastres par tonne de caoutchouc et de 18 piastres par tonne de chicle. L'exploitant peut aussi élever du bétail dans sa concession, moyennant une redevance annuelle de 50 centavos par tête.

Mr. MARTIN, un Belge, établi à San Juan-Bautista, vient d'obtenir de cette manière de très belles forêts sur un des affluents de l'Usumacinta.

L'exploitation des bois précieux a donc, comme on le voit, remonté les rivières et se trouve maintenant à près de 500 kilomètres de leur embouchure, dans la région du nord de Chiapas et même au Guatemala. On y trouve des arbres énormes. Le Consul de Belgique écrit qu'on lui a montré 61 pièces de bois d'acajou équarri qui représentaient ensemble un poids total de 140 tonnes.

Les exploitants font en ce moment de beaux bénéfices. La tonne de bois d'acajou équarri sur le haut Usumacinta leur revient, rendue à la mer, à 18 piastres, et les prix de vente sont: 60 piastres pour la 1ère qualité, 35 pour la 2ème qualité, c'est-à-dire pour les bois de moins de 18 pouces, 22 pour la 8ème qualité, c'est-à-dire de moins de 14 pouces.

L'abatage se fait par entreprise. L'ouvrier reçoit 6 piastres par tonne de bois abattu et équarri. Il peut arriver de cette façon à gagner 1½ piastre par jour. Une fois équarries, les pièces de bois sont jetées à la rivière et on laisse au courant le soin de les amener jusqu'à un certain point, où chaque propriétaire repêche les bois portant sa marque. On en fait des radeaux qui descendent le fleuve jusqu'au port d'embarquement, à Frontera ou à Carmén. Sur certaines rivières, il faut des mois entiers pour que le courant amène le bois à l'endroit où les radeaux sont formés. C'est aussi à cause de ce mode de transport que l'exportation se trouve souvent interrompue durant la saison sèche.

Il serait difficile maintenant d'acquérir de l'Etat, dans de bonnes conditions, des forêts riches en bois précieux. Les maisons de San-Juan-Batista ont acquis en propriété ou en location toutes les parties bien situées le long des cours d'eau. Les forêts encore disponibles sont situées derrière ces bandes de terrains déja aliénés qui s'étendent sur les deux côtés des rivières, et alors les frais de transport deviennent trop grands pour qu'on puisse actuellement faire l'exploitation avec bénéfice.

Il existe aussi de magnifiques forêts plus au sud, dans l'Etat de Chiapas, mais elles ne sont pas traversées par des cours d'eau, de sorte qu'il ne sera possible de les mettre en valeur qu'en y construisant des chemins de fer. Les personnes qui désireraient entreprendre l'exploitation des forêts pourraient s'en faire céder directement par les particuliers. En ce moment, une maison importante de San-Juan-Batista est en négociations pour vendre d'énormes étendues moyennant 400,000 piastres à une compagnie qui s'est constituée pour les exploiter.

Dans l'État de Tabasco même, les forêts ont été écrémées; les gros arbres d'acajou ont disparu. Toutefois, il en reste, d'excellente qualité,

quoique de petite dimension, sur tout le littoral entre Coatzacoalcos et Frontera. On les expédie par les petits ports de Tonala, Santa Ana el Chiltepec. Quant au bois de teinture, il en existe encore de grandes quantités. C'est d'ailleurs un bois qui repousse en une quinzaine d'années, tandis qu'une forêt d'acajou est l'œuvre des siècles. La maison Valenzuela possède de grandes forêts de bois de campêche dans le district d'Usumacinta.

L'exploitation totale de Tabasco, en y comprenant celle du Nord de Chiapas et de quelques parties du Guatemala, voisines de la frontière, s'élève annuellement à environ 24,000 tonnes de bois d'ébénisterie et 50,000 tonnes de bois de teinture. Les expéditions se font par Frontera et Carmen.

Voici les noms des principales maisons de San Juan-Batista exploitant les bois de cèdre et d'acajou avec le chiffre de leurs exportations en 1898: BULNES ET CIE., 5,500 tonnes; ROMANO ET CIE, successeurs, 4,800 tonnes, presque tout en destination pour New-York; Valenzuela, 2,000 tonnes d'acajou et 3,000 tonnes de bois de teinture; the Guatemalan and Mexican Mahogany Export Company, 4,000 tonnes, MARTIN ET CIE. Ces maisons possèdent des étendues énormes de forêts au delà de la frontière de Tabasco. La maison BULNES a acquis, en 1881, 120,000 hectares dans l'État de Chiapas sur un affluent de l'Usumacinta, au prix de 50 centavos seulement l'hectare. On n'exploite dans ces forêts que l'acajou et le cèdre, mais elles renferment d'autres essences en abondance. Dans la collection que la maison ROMANO se dispose à envoyer à l'Exposition universelle de Paris, se trouvent des échantillons de bois extraordinaires qui auraient une grande valeur pour l'ébénisterie de luxe. Ces bois ne sont pas dans le commerce, certains d'entre eux ne se rencontrent que dans la montagne; leur transport jusqu'à la rivière est trop dispendieux. D'autres ont un poids spécifique supérieure à celui de l'eau, de sorte qu'il n'y a pas moyen de les diriger vers la mer en les confiant au courant des rivières.

L'INDUSTRIE DES TISSUS DANS LA RÉPUBLIQUE.

D'après les tableaux qui ont été dressés en vue de la perception des impôts sur la filature et les tissus de coton, durant la dernière année fiscale, il y a eu au Mexique 125 filatures, fabriques de tissus et d'impressions. Ces fabriques comptent 491,443 broches et 14,759 métiers; 23,731 ouvriers y travaillent. Elles ont consommé, du 1er juillet 1898 au 30 juin 1899, 13,071,130 kilogrammes de coton; elles ont produit 5,375,882 pièces de tissus divers et 965,711 kilogrammes de filasse. La valeur de ces articles est de 14,963,299 piastres.

L'industrie des manufactures de coton paraît être actuellement une des industries les plus prospères de la République. Il paraît que plusieurs factoreries font des dividendes de 40 pour cent l'an et que pratiquement il n'y a pas de concurrence, la production étant de loin inférieure à la demande intérieure.

FAITS DIVERS.

Le vapeur *Seneca* de la ligne "Ward" est parti récemment de Vera-Cruz pour la Havane et autres ports cubains avec un très important chargement composé en majeure partie de café provenant de Oaxaca et de Coatepec; de tabac provenant du canton de Tuxila et d'une grande quantité d'œufs. L'exportation du bétail du Mexique à Cuba continue sur une vaste échelle. Elle s'effectue à bord de vastes bâtiments aménagés d'une façon spéciale.

MM. LIONS frères et ADRIEN REYNAUD viennent de monter près d'Atlixco, Etat de Puebla, une grande fabrique de cotonnades. Cette nouvelle fabrique est située à trois kilomètres environ de la petite ville d'Atlixco à laquelle elle est reliée par une ligne de tramways que l'on a précisément inaugurée le même jour. Les bâtiments tout neufs, sont vastes et largement aérés, toute la fabrique est éclairée à l'électricité et elle est dotée de machines, pour la plupart françaises, du dernier modèle. Près de cinq cents personnes y seront occupées toute l'année.

NICARAGUA.

ACQUISITION D'UN NOUVEAU NAVIRE DE GUERRE.

"Le Nouveau Monde" du 7 octobre 1899 contient un entrefilet annonçant que le gouvernement de la République du Nicaragua a fait l'acquisition d'un nouveau navire de guerre qui a été baptisé *Osorno*. Le même entrefilet dit aussi que récemment le Président ZOLAYA a eu, dans le Golfe de Fonseca, une entrevue avec le Président du Honduras, M. SIERRA, et qu'il y a lieu de considérer cette entrevue comme une ratification des liens fraternels qui unissent déjà les deux républiques voisines.

PÉROU.

DEMANDE DE CATALOGUES D'APPAREILS ÉLECTRIQUES.

Le Ministre de France à Lima a informé récemment son gouvernement que plusieurs ingénieurs et mécaniciens-électriciens français, domiciliés au Pérou, ont sollicité l'intervention de la Légation française, en vue d'obtenir des catalogues relatifs aux articles de leur spécialité. Ces demandes visent spécialement: Matériel d'éclairage, fils, cordons flexibles, douilles, lampes, générateurs pour la transmission de la force électrique, appareils de télégraphie, téléphonie, etc.

Ce fonctionnaire écrit aussi que des catalogues de machines-outils à travailler le bois sont demandés à Lima.

AFFAIRES INTÉRIEURES.

Le Recueil Consulaire du Royaume de Belgique pour l'année 1899 contient un rapport très détaillé sur les affaires intérieures de la République Péruvienne que M. C. RENOZ, Consul de Belgique à Lima, a fait parvenir à son gouvernement, le 27 octobre 1898. Ce fonctionnaire écrit, au sujet de la Loi du timbre en vigueur au Pérou, qu'il y a deux espèces de timbre; les timbres fixes ou papier timbré, et les timbres adhésifs. Les uns et les autres sont émis tous les deux ans et ne peuvent être employés que pendant le cours des deux années pour lesquelles ils ont été créés. Le papier timbré ne s'emploie que pour les actes officiels ou judiciaires et les timbres adhésifs pour les transactions commerciales.

Les timbres actuellement en usage sont de cinq valeurs différentes, savoir: 5 sols, 1 sol, 25 centavos, 10 centavos, et 2 centavos.

Pour l'application de la taxe, on suit les règles suivantes:

Chaque exemplaire du manifeste d'un navire à voile ou à vapeur, venant de l'étranger, sans itinéraire fixe, doit être revêtu d'un timbre de 5 sols. Cette taxe n'est que 2 sols au lieu de 5 pour les navires à itinéraire fixe et qui font escale dans plusieurs ports péruviens. Pour les navires qui arrivent sur l'est, elle est réduite à 1 sol.

Les lettres de change, tirées de l'étranger, doivent être revêtues des timbres nécessaires, soit au moment de l'acceptation, soit au premier endossement dans le pays, soit au moment du paiement.

Les lettres de crédit sont exemptes de l'impôt du timbre.

Les chèques sur les banques ne portent qu'un timbre de 2 centavos, quel que soit le montant de la somme qu'ils représentent. Toute infraction à la loi est punie d'une amende de quatre fois la valeur des timbres omis. Cette peine est appliquée à celui qui a accepté le document, aussi bien qu'à celui qui l'a émis. Le fisc perçoit donc, en ce cas, huit fois la taxe ordinaire.

Le Consul donne une description graphique des efforts faits par le gouvernement à fin d'établir un complet changement de système monétaire et cite les lois du 11 et du 29 décembre qui prescrivent que les droits de douane seront payés en livres sterling, à raison d'une livre sterling pour 10 sols fixés par le tarif douanier.

Les lignes télégraphiques du Pérou s'étendent graduellement et atteignent aujourd'hui une longueur totale de 3,000 kilomètres et les rapports pour les années 1896 et 1897 montrent une augmentation de recettes et une réduction de dépenses. M. le Consul RENOZ considère qu'il faut chercher la cause du peu de mouvement des lignes télégraphiques dans l'élévation du tarif. La taxe est, en effet, pour tous les points du territoire indistinctivement, de 40 centavos par dépêche ne dépassant pas dix mots, y compris l'adresse et la signature. Au-dessus de ce nombre, chaque mot supplémentaire coûte 4 centavos. Les trop fréquentes interruptions du service ont également une influence fâcheuse sur les recettes. Les poteaux, qui sont en bois, pourrissent

et tombent; les fils, en fer galvanisé, s'oxydent rapidement et se brisent, principalement sur la côte, d'où des intermittences de recettes et des sources continuelles de dépenses. Pour assurer un service stable, il faudrait avoir des poteaux en fer et des fils en bronze phosphoreux.

Le tarif postal péruvien, pour la correspondance en destination de l'étranger, a encore été augmenté depuis le 1er janvier 1898. D'après la statistique péruvienne, le mouvement général des postes a été de 7,174,857 pièces en 1896 et de 12,760,771 pièces en 1897, soit près de 78 pour cent de plus que l'année précédente.

Parmi les voies de communication dont l'établissement se poursuit actuellement, il faut citer la route centrale ou du Pichis.

L'impérieuse nécessité d'établir une voie terrestre entre la capitale du pays et la région basse de Montana, porta le gouvernement péruvien, il y a une couple d'années, à ouvrir une artère jusqu'à un point navigable d'un des principaux affluents de l'Amazone. Il existait déjà à cette époque, à partir de la Oroya, un chemin passant par Iarma et traversant toute la vallée du Chanchamayo jusqu'à un point nommé San-Luis de Shuaro. Il convenait, évidemment de profiter de ce qui était déjà fait; seulement, la principale difficulté consistait à choisir une rivière qui permît réellement de descendre ensuite par eau, sans encombre et en toute saison, jusqu'à l'embouchure de l'Amazone. Les avis, à cet égard, étaient très différents. Les ingénieurs du gouvernement recommandaient le Pichis; d'autres, qui avaient aussi fait des explorations dans ce dédale de cours d'eau, prétendaient qu'il existait des rivières, entre autres le Mayro, beaucoup plus propices à la réalisation du projet.

Finalement, après la victorieuse démonstration de la navigabilité du Pichis, faite par un petit bateau à vapeur qui remonta le courant depuis Iquitos jusqu'à la rivière susdite, ce fut la route du Pichis qui l'emporta, et les travaux commencèrent. On a déjà terminé 145 kilomètres dans la direction de la rivière et on calcule qu'il n'en reste plus qu'une trentaine à faire pour arriver au point terminus de la route ou Puerto Bermudez, d'où partiront plus tard les petits bateaux à vapeur qui feront le service entre ce port et celui d'Iquitos. Le Pichis se jette dans le Pachitea, et celui-ci dans l'Ucayali qui, comme on sait, prend le nom de fleuve des Amazones, à sa jonction avec le Maranon. Après l'achèvement de la route de Pichis, le voyage entre les deux océans s'effectuera de la manière suivante: du Callas à la Oroya, en chemin de fer, 220 kilomètres; de la Oroya à Puerto Bermudez, à cheval, environ 300 kilomètres; de Puerto Bermudez à Iquitos, en bateau à vapeur, approximativement 1,500 kilomètres; et d'Iquitos aux bouches de l'Amazone, 3,500 kilomètres. Total: 5,520 kilomètres.

On estime que le trajet de Lima à Iquitos pourra alors se faire en une dizaine de jours et même moins, ce qui sera un immense progrès sur les deux ou trois mois qu'il faut aujourd'hui pour le même voyage.

L'activité pour atteindre ce but est grande. Pendant l'année 1897, il a été dépensé de ce chef une somme de 356,353 sols, ce qui, vu l'état actuel des finances, prouve tout l'intérêt qu'on attache à l'exécution de cet important projet.

Un rapport favorable est fait des conditions agricoles du pays; le café et le cacao étant specialement designés comme augmentant en quantité et en valeur. Quoique la production du coton augmente tous les ans, ce produit ne figure pas aussi largement qu'autrefois dans les exportations, mais cette circonstance peut être due probablement à la consommation des fabriques de tissus qui se sont établies depuis lors dans le pays. Les exportations et les importations du saindoux ont diminué d'où l'on peut conclure que la production de saindoux national a augmenté. La laine d'alpaca, dont l'exportation annuelle atteint une valeur de 2,000,000 sols, est la principale branche commerciale de la partie méridionale du Pérou.

Le mouton, le lama et l'alpaca sont élevés dans la région andine des départements d'Arequipa, de Puno, de Cuzco et d'Apurimac, dont les plaines sont situées à environ 4,000 mètres au dessus du niveau de la mer; cependant la laine de l'alpaca est la plus estimée et vaut le double des deux autres espèces. La tonte de l'alpaca se fait tous les deux ans, généralement pendant la saison des pluies, et chaque animal donne de 1 à 2 kilogrammes d'une laine de 20 centimètres de langueur. On a remarqué que lorsque les pluies sont peu abondantes, la laine est moins belle. Jusqu'à présent, le seul marché pour la vente des laines d'alpaca est Liverpool, quoique les exportateurs péruviens aient maintes fois cherché d'autres débouchés. Parfois même, il a fallu réexpédier à Liverpool des laines qu'on ne serait parvenu à vendre à New-York qu'avec une perte trop grande, les américains semblant préférer s'approvisionner à Liverpool. Ce système prouve seulement la grande force de l'habitude.

Comme les acheteurs du continent européen font la même chose, la suprématie du marché de Liverpool, qui compte, en outre, sur la forte consommation des fabriques de Bradford, est largement assurée pour les laines d'alpaca. La production de cette laine n'a pas varié depuis vingt ans; elle conserve une moyenne annuelle de 45,000 quintaux ou 2,000 tonnes. On l'exporte en balles de 130 à 150 livres. L'élevage de l'alpaca ne se pratique qu'au Pérou. Les essais d'acclimatation tentés en Australie et dans d'autres pays n'ont pas réussi. Aujourd'hui il est strictement défendu d'exporter un de ces animaux vivant.

La principale industrie qui existe au Pérou est l'industrie minière et les usines installées dans le pays pour le traitement des minerais augmentent continuellement. Le changement le plus notable à constater dans cette industrie est l'importance que l'on attache aux mines de cuivre dont l'extraction dans le district de Cerro de Pasco est seulement ralentie par suite du manque de transport.

M. Renoz, en traitant la question du caoutchouc est de l'avis des

autres écrivains, et recommande d'établir des plantations destinées à suppléer à la destruction inévitable qui se produit dans les forêts, et cela à cause des méthodes employées actuellement pour extraire la sève des arbres. Il considère cependant cette destruction comme un évènement éloigné car les forêts au Pérou sont très riches en caoutchouc, et il donne les raisons suivantes en faveur de cette République comme champ d'opérations: les droits d'exportation peu élevés et la salubrité du climat.

L'Angleterre et l'Allemagne occupent le premier rang dans le commerce du Pérou, les Etats-Unis viennent après; les articles de provenance anglaise étant: les tissus de coton, les sacs d'emballage, le mercure, les huiles de colza et de palme, les voies portatives, les fers, les machines, les soieries, les draps communs, les papiers, la dynamite et la soude caustique; tandis que les produits importés d'Allemagne sont les suivants: les chapeaux, les machines agricoles et minières, les tissus de laine et la bière.

COLONISATION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE.

Le "Nouveau-Monde," du 4 novembre 1899, publie un article très intéressant au sujet de la colonisation au Pérou qui dit que le Gouvernement Péruvien s'est préoccupé de la mise en valeur des quantités considérables de terrains dont il dispose dans l'immense étendue de son territoire national. Dans ces dernières années, les efforts du Gouvernement Péruvien ont porté plus spécialement sur les régions inter-andines, au milieu desquelles se trouvent des vallées particulièrement favorisées par la salubrité du climat et la fertilité du sol. Jusqu'à ce jour, cependant, ces tentatives de colonisation n'ont obtenu que des succès partiels. Le manque de bras, les difficultés de communication, la baisse des produits agricoles, café, coca, etc., le prix élevé des transports sont autant d'obstacles qui s'opposent à la colonisation sur une grande échelle de régions qui, à divers point de vue, offrent de réels avantages. Le courant d'émigration qui emporte chaque année des milliers de travailleurs vers l'Amérique du Sud est absorbé par le Brésil et la Plata; le Pérou ne reçoit que des isolés, généralement des Italiens, attirés par la présence de leurs compatriotes établis en assez grand nombre au Pérou, et quelques rares Français. Parmi eux, les ouvriers agricoles proprement dits sont en petit nombre; l'éloignement de cet élément de population s'explique suffisamment par le cours des salaires agricoles; un ouvrier indigène employé sur une hacienda de canne à sucre n'est payé, en moyenne, que 80 centavos, ou un sol par jour. L'agriculteur européen ne peut donc trouver de place au Pérou que comme chef ou propriétaire d'exploitation. C'est dans ces conditions qu'ont été installés les colons européens de Chanchamayo.

Les débuts de la colonisation de cette vallée remontent à plus de vingt-cinq ans, mais ce n'est que depuis quelques années qu'une impulsion plus énergique a été donnée à l'agriculture.

La vallée du Chanchamayo, dont le centre de population le plus con-

sidérable est la Merced (2,000 habitants) tire son nom du fleuve formé par la réunion des rivières Oxabamba et Tulumayo et se trouve située sur le versant oriental de la Cordillère des Andes. Elle est mise en communication avec la côte du Pacifique par le chemin de fer du Callao à la Oroya (219 kilomètres); une route muletière relie ce dernier point à la Merced (deux jours de cheval). Le nombre des haciendas de cannes à sucre est de 18; celui des plantations de café, de 282; le nombre des ouvriers employés sur ces exploitations est d'environ 5,000, chiffre qui est bien loin de répondre aux besoins et aux demandes des agriculteurs.

La canne à sucre, généralement transformée sur place en eau-de-vie, est vendue et consommée dans les villages d'Indiens de l'intérieur; la production annuelle est de 18,000 hectolitres environ.

Le café, dont la production peut-être évaluée à 800,000 kilogrammes, est exporté sur les marchés d'Europe où cette provenance commence à être avantageusement connue. Le prix du café sur place a varié entre 10 et 14 soles le quintal de 46 kilogrammes auquel il faut ajouter, pour l'exportation, le coût du transport du Chanchamayo au Callao, soit environ 5 soles par quintal.

Le salaire d'un journalier indigène est, dans la région, de 50 centavos; un menuisier gagne 3 soles; un maçon, un mécanicien ou chaudronnier, jusqu'à 4 et 5 soles par jour.

La province de Paucartambo, située à environ 75 kilomètres à l'est du Cuzco, mérite d'attirer l'attention des prospecteurs forestiers. Jadis très prospère du temps des Espagnols, cette province fut dévastée vers la fin du siècle dernier par une incursion des sauvages Huachipairis et Tuyeneris. Les forêts de Paucartambo, écrit l'agent consulaire français au Cuzco à son gouvernement, abondent en riches produits naturels de toute sorte. On y trouve de la vanille, du cacao, divers baumes très estimés, et principalement du caoutchouc et des bois fins pour l'usage de l'ébénisterie.

Dans le courant de l'année dernière, M. TANAKA, agent de la maison MARIOKA ET Cie, de Tokio, a passé avec quelques planteurs des environs de Lima des contrats relatifs à l'introduction d'ouvriers japonais agricoles au Pérou. Un contingent de 500 hommes devait, dit-on, débarquer au Callao vers le mois d'avril ou de mai derniers. Cependant l'année 1899 s'écoule sans que l'on ait encore signalé le vapeur qui devait les amener de Yokohama.

Ci-après est le décret du 7 novembre 1896 qui définit les conditions auxquelles les colons peuvent se rendre acquéreurs des terrains compris dans la région dite de la montagne (région inter ou extra-andine).

Les terrains de la montagne s'acquièrent par achat, concession ou colonisation, dans la forme suivante:

1°. Par achat en payant au fisc 5 soles au minimum par hectare, moyennant quoi l'on acquiert un droit perpétuel sur les terrains achetés.

2°. Par concession, en versant annuellement et d'avance, pendant les trois premières années un droit d'un sole par hectare. Dans les années suivantes on payera la même somme pour les terrains cultivés et le

double pour ceux qui ne le sont pas; le défaut de paiement des droits à l'expiration d'une année aura pour résultat la perte indéfectible de la concession, et les terres retourneront au domaine de l'État sans aucune indemnité.

3°. Par contrat de colonisation qui se fera dans chaque cas spécial, moyennant le versement par le concessionaire d'une garantie effective de son accomplissement, à raison de dix soles par hectare de terrain concédé; durant le délai qui sera fixé dans chaque contrat, les terres seront respectivement exemptes de tout payement et, passé ce délai, elles rentreront dans les mêmes conditions que les terrains acquis par concession conformément à l'article 2, sauf une clause expresse en sens contraire;

4°. Les terrains nécessaires pour des constructions d'utilité publique ou qui doivent être conservés comme bois seront employés à ces fins, sans qu'il soit accordé au propriétaire d'autre indemnité qu'une compensation par d'autres terrains;

5°. Les propriétaires et concessionaires de terrains de montagne demeureront soumis en tout temps aux lois et résolutions qui seront adoptées relativement à l'exploitation des produits des bois.

ETATS-UNIS.

EXPORTATION DES MANUFACTURES.

Un examen des chiffres d'exportation pour les articles manufacturés pendant le mois de septembre, démontre que les envois de cette branche de commerce ont été plus considérables en valeur que pendant aucun mois de l'année 1898, et n'ont été surpassés que par quatre mois seulement en 1899. Le total de ces exportations pendant le mois de septembre se montait en 1898 à $25,020,047, et en 1899 à $31,373,264, soit une augmentation de plus de $6,350,000, pendant que le tant pour cent de l'augmentation pendant les neuf mois finissant le 30 septembre était un tant soit peu plus élevé. Les tableaux ci dessous qui donnent les chiffres pour chaque mois des trois dernières années montrent comment le montant des exportations des marchandises américaines manufacturées a augmenté constamment de mois en mois.

Mois.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Janvier	$20,621,179	$22,998,808	$25,806,870
Février	20,248,989	21,048,631	24,489,860
Mars	25,876,861	28,214,450	36,025,733
Avril	24,014,351	25,992,552	33,015,970
Mai	26,458,060	27,031,700	30,816,314
Juin	25,873,917	27,216,869	31,812,775
Juillet	23,602,784	25,983,116	29,932,034
Août	22,900,927	25,805,485	34,158,777
Septembre	22,749,114	25,020,047	31,373,264
Octobre	22,247,998	25,416,046	.....
Novembre	21,688,204	26,471,131	.....
Décembre	23,370,317	28,283,688	.....
	279,652,721	307,924,934	.....

D'après ces chiffres on estime que le montant des exportations des marchandises manufacturées pendant l'année sera de $370,000,000 et peut-être de $375,000,000. Le total des exportations des manufactures de fer et d'acier pendant les neuf mois finissant le 30 septembre, montre une augmentation de $59,990,665 en 1898 à $76,567,438, ou une augmentation pendant deux ans de près de 70 pour cent. Cette augmentation s'est produite malgré les pertes en quelques articles, notamment les vélocipèdes, dont le commerce après avoir atteint son zénith semble s'être ralenti, car depuis 1897 il y a eu une diminution constante dans la valeur des exportations de cet article.

Les exportations de rails d'acier ont diminué matériellement en ce qui concerne l'Amérique Anglaise, mais en Asie et en Océanie elles ont augmenté de $376,087 en 1898 à $1,372,966 en 1899, une partie de cette augmentation étant due sans aucun doute à la construction du chemin de fer "Trans-Sibérien" et à la grande activité déployée dans la construction de chemins de fer dans l'Empire Chinois. L'augmentation des fibres textiles pendant les neuf mois est principalement sous le titre de "Corde," dont la valeur pendant les neuf mois de 1898 était de $995,097 et pour la même période de 1899 de $1,800,277.

URUGUAY.

RECETTES DOUANIÈRES.

La Direction générale de statistique du gouvernement de l'Uruguay vient de publier les résultats du dernier exercice économique (1898–99). Il résulte de cette publication que l'importation a donné à la douane une recette totale de $8,358,696 et l'exportation $1,375,945, soit en totalité $9,734,641.

Pour l'exercice antérieur, la recette n'avait été que de $9,567,640, dont $8,191,003 pour l'importation et $1,376,637 pour l'exportation.

L'accroissement, d'un exercice à l'autre, est minime; il suffit toutefois pour attester qu'il y a tendance à une amélioration positive et continue de revenu public.

LE MUSÉE COMMERCIAL FRANÇAIS DE MONTEVIDEO.

Le Ministre de France à Montevideo a récemment informé son gouvernement que la colonie espagnole de Montevideo vient de provoquer dans cette ville la création d'un musée commercial qui sera, en même temps, une sorte de dépôt de marchandises de la métropole. Cette initiative a d'ailleurs été prise également, dit-on, à Buenos-Ayres, et semble répondre à une mesure générale qui s'appliquerait à tous les grands centres du continent latino-américain. Dans la capitale de l'Uruguay, un local a déjà été spécialement aménagé à cet effet.

Le ministre donne aussi dans son rapport, le texte du règlement de cette institution. Le voici:

A côté de l'Ecole de commerce, un musée (Exposition permanente d'échantillons) a été organisé par les soins de la Chambre de commerce française. Ce musée sera un centre de propagande commerciale et facilitera l'enseignement pratique de l'Ecole de commerce. Le rouage, le fonctionnement du Musée sera des plus simples.

(1) Les échantillons seront distribués en groupes;

(2) Tout en faisant l'enseignement pratique, les professeurs et les élèves de l'Ecole de commerce étudieront et classeront les échantillons;

(3) A chaque groupe seront attachés un ou plusieurs courtiers actifs et intelligents, nommés par la Légation, sur la proposition de la Chambre de commerce;

(4) Les courtiers correspondront et s'entendront avec les commerçants, fabricants et artistes intéressés;

(5) Après cet accord, les courtiers feront la place et provoqueront les offres.

MONOPOLE DES ALCOOLS.

Parmi les nombreux projets que le gouvernement de l'Uruguay se propose de présenter prochainement au Corps législatif est celui de réserver à l'Etat le monopole de la vente des alcools. L'auteur du projet est M. CAMPISTEGUI, actuellement Ministre des finances, qui obtiendra ainsi, assure-t-on, un accroissement de 800,000 piastres au moins dans les revenus, déduction faite de tous les frais d'administration et d'exploitation du monopole.

En dehors des avantages économiques que l'Etat pourrait en retirer, le monopole projeté permettrait aussi de combattre victorieusement la consommation d'alcools vénéneux que des spéculateurs sans scrupule n'hésitent pas à vendre ou à employer.

Aux termes de ce projet, les distilleries actuellement établies dans la République seraient les seules à fabriquer les alcools de première distillation et ne pourraient vendre leurs produits qu'à l'usine centrale de rectification.

Après promulgation de la loi, et ceci mérite l'attention spéciale des importateurs de vins étrangers, la graduation des vins de provenance étrangère serait limitée à 13° sous 15° centigrades de température; l'excédent alcoolique paierait un droit plus ou moins élevé.

VENEZUELA.

LES PÊCHERIES DE PERLES DU VENEZUELA.

Le "Bulletin commercial" de Bruxelles donne les renseignements intéressants suivants au sujet des pêcheries de perles du Venezuela.

Les pêcheries de perles de l'île Margarita, sur la côte septentrionale du Venezuela, sont connues depuis environ trois siècles, c'est-à-dire

depuis la découverte de l'Amérique. Actuellement encore, cette industrie est surtout pratiquée par les naturels de l'île, et on estime que la somme totale qu'ils reçoivent annuellement de ce chef s'élève à environ 500,000 francs. Il est à remarquer, toutefois, que cette sommes est loin de représenter la valeur réelle des perles recueillies dans ces parages. Les perles sont achetées aux indigènes par un très petit nombre de négociants, qui opèrent pour le compte de maisons européennes.

La pêche des huîtres perlières n'est soumise à aucune réglementation au Venezuela, et les barques qui y sont affectées n'ont à payer qu'une taxe annuelle d'environ 120 francs. On compte environ 400 barques dont les propriétaires se livrent à cette pêche, mais aucune n'est pourvue d'appareils de plongeurs. Le mode de procéder des indigènes est très primitif; ils se servent d'une sorte de drague pesante en métal, qui râcle le fond de la mer et que l'on retire lorsque l'on suppose qu'elle contient une certaine quantité d'huîtres.

D'après le Ministre des Etats-Unis à Caracas, les meilleurs bancs d'huîtres perlières du Venezuela se trouvent à proximité de quelques petites îles situées près de l'île Margarita. Il paraît d'ailleurs que l'on trouve, sur ces îles, d'énormes quantités d'écailles, dont une bonne partie pourrait être utilisée pour la production de la nacre.

Etant donnée la richesse des bancs d'huîtres perlières du Venezuela, il est assez probable que des bateaux munis de scaphandres ou de cloches à plongeurs y obtiendraient d'excellents résultats.

LE CANAL TRANS-ISTHMIEN.

La session du Congrès commercial international du 24 octobre 1899 a été entièrement consacrée à la discussion des routes commerciales du monde et plusieurs documents très importants traitant cette question ont été lus.

Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Costa-Rica, fut présenté par le Président, Monsieur J. C. MONAGHAN, Consul des Etats-Unis à Chemnitz, Allemagne, comme une des autorités les plus compétentes, ayant des connaissances très étendues sur une entreprise aussi gigantesque que la construction du grand Canal Isthmien. Les remarques de Señor CALVO sont publiées entièrement ci-après:

"L'idée d'unir les deux grands océans au moyen d'un canal à travers l'Istme américain est venue, comme on sait, dès le moment ou l'on fut convaincu que le passage que l'on croyait exister du côté de la mer du sud, du temps de Christophe Colomb, n'était pas une réalité.

"Il est inutile d'insister sur la grande importance d'une pareille entreprise, un simple coup d'œil suffira pour démontrer les avantages matériels que le monde gagnera par la création d'une voie fluviale courte et facile entre l'Atlantique qui est une mer d'Europe et le

Pacifique qui est le grand océan d'Asie, d'Australie et des grandes côtes de l'ouest du Nouveau Monde.

"L'histoire générale du projet est très connue, et quant à la praticabilité du travail, nous savons tous que des autorités très versées dans la matière se sont prononcées absolument en sa faveur. C'est pourquoi je ne veux pas m'étendre sur l'un ou l'autre de ces points, ne pensant pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'attirer l'attention de cet honorable congrès sur les avantages qui seraient offerts au commerce du monde entier par le percement de cet isthme qui mettrait en communication les deux océans. Mon but, en prenant part à cette session, se borne à exprimer, aussi brièvement que possible, la position de Costa Rica et ses intérêts directs dans l'entreprise de ce canal.

"Le territoire de Costa Rica s'étend entre ceux du Nicaragua et du Panama, les noms des deux parties de l'isthme ayant servi à distinguer les deux entreprises: l'une française, le canal de Panama; l'autre américaine, le canal de Nicaragua. Cette position avantageuse donne au peuple industrieux et pacifique de Costa Rica tous les bénéfices de proximité, comme étant les voisins les plus rapprochés, quelque soit la route que l'on traverse finalement. Mais la frontière de Costa Rica ne touche pas à la ligne du canal de Panama, tandis qu'une portion de notre territoire est indispensable à la route à travers le Nicaragua. Et ceci n'est point une nouvelle découverte ni le résultat de récents travaux d'arpentage, c'est un fait très connu depuis le temps de VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA. Néanmoins, les premiers travaux d'arpentage du pays ne furent commencés qu'en 1591, quand, pour se conformer à des ordres supérieurs, le Capitaine ANTONIO PEREIRA, Gouverneur de Costa Rica, organisa une expédition et explora la route qui passait par la rivière San Juan, le lac et les rivières débouchant dans le golfe Nicoya, dans la République de Costa Rica. Trente-neuf ans plus tard, DIEGO DE MERCADO, soumit au roi Philippe III son fameux mémoire du 23 janvier 1620, indiquant la route suivant la rivière et le lac et de là traversant le territoire de Costa Rica le long du Quebrada, ou Barranca Honda, jusqu'à la baie de Salinas, appelée à cette époque Puerto del Papagayo.

"Soit que l'importance de l'entreprise fût alors supérieure aux nécessités du commerce, ou, comme on disait, que l'Espagne considérât que le canal était contraire à ses intérêts, l'ère de la liberté arriva sans qu'on eût jamais mis à exécution ce projet.

"Après l'indépendance, le congrès de l'Amérique Centrale, dans lequel Costa Rica et Nicaragua étaient représentés comme Etats de la Fédération, lesquels succédèrent au Gouvernement colonial, autorisa par un décret du 16 juin 1885 la construction du canal et, la même année, DON ANTONION JOSÉ CANAS, Représentant Diplomatique de l'Amérique Centrale à Washington, écrivit au Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, pour l'informer de cette décision en disant qu'une compagnie composée de respectables citoyens américains était prête à

entreprendre les travaux anssitôt que le traité avec les Etats-Unis assurant la coopération de ces derniers serait signé; qu'il était prêt à entrer en négociation pour ce traité et que rien ne serait plus agréable à l'Amérique Centrale que de voir le peuple généreux des Etats-Unis se joindre à elle dans le percement du canal, partager la gloire de cette entreprise et jouir des grands avantages qui en résulteraient.

"Le gouvernement de l'Amérique Centrale ne put mener à bien cette vaste entreprise quoique, parmi les moyens employés pour atteindre le résultat désiré, figurât aussi l'arrangement conclu avec le roi de Hollande en octobre 1830. Mais, quoique les espérances fondées sur l'entreprise fussent frustrées, la déclaration de ce Congrès qui fait honneur à l'Amérique Centrale et qui constitue comme la concession du canal lui-même un des documents publiques les plus intéressants qui ait jamais été publié par aucune nation de la terre, est devenue un fait accompli.

"La Fédération Centrale américaine ayant été dissoute, cette importante matière concerna seulement directement le Nicaragua et Costa Rica, et la ligne de frontière entre les deux républiques ayant été déterminée par le traité du 15 avril 1858 aussi bien que les points se rapportant au canal, les deux gouvernements conjointement accordèrent une concession le 1er mai de la même année à M. FÉLIX BELLY, un écrivain français distingué auquel l'Empereur Napoléon prêta son appui afin qu'il pût mener à bout l'entreprise. Ceci n'ayant pas réussi, les deux gouvernements alors, d'un commun accord, passèrent un contrat connu sous le nom de Ayon-Chevalier, signé par le Nicaragua le 16 octobre 1868 et par Costa Rica le 18 juin 1869. Il est inutile de dire que ce dernier contrat n'eut aussi aucun succès.

"Quelques années après l'expiration de ce dernier contrat, le Nicaragua discuta la validité du traité et la signification de quelques-unes de ses stipulations que Costa Rica maintenait dans sa forme originale, et la question fut soumise au Président des Etats-Unis, M. CLEVELAND, qui, dans sa décision du 22 mars 1888, acceptée par les deux parties, déclara le traité valide et engageant les deux républiques et interpréta les points qui, dans l'opinion du Nicaragua, étaient douteux. D'après les stipulations de ces deux documents et pour que les droits naturels de Costa Rica ne fussent pas lésés, le Nicaragua s'engageait à n'accorder aucune concession pour la construction d'une voie fluviale traversant son territoire, sans avoir consulté préalablement la République de Costa Rica.

"Trois années auparavant et pendant que la question était encore pendante, le Nicaragua fit le traité connu sous le nom "Zavala-Frelinghuysen," signé à Washington le 1er décembre 1884, par lequel le droit de construction du canal était transmis aux Etats-Unis, et Costa Rica le 23 février 1885 accepta ce traité; mais les négociations échouèrent, le sénat des Etats-Unis en ayant refusé la ratification quoique l'on fût convenu de reconsidérer la question; le Président CLEVE-

LAND, alors, au début de sa première administration, retira le projet du sénat.

"Les choses retombèrent alors dans les mêmes conditions qu'auparavant et le Nicaragua au mois d'avril 1887 et Costa Rica au mois de juillet 1888, accordèrent respectivement des concessions qui furent la base des négociations pendant les dernières années pour la construction de ce canal.

"Le Congrès des Etats-Unis a apporté un soin tout spécial à l'examen de cet important projet depuis l'année 1892, et des commissions furent organisées et chargées de faire une étude élaborée et soigneuse en vue de choisir la meilleure route et d'étudier aussi l'influence du canal sous ses différents aspects. Récemment, les investigations ne se sont pas bornées à la route traversant seulement le Nicaragua et Costa Rica mais ont inclu aussi le Panama, et on espère que quand la nouvelle commission qui a été désignée cette année présentera ses conclusions, le congrès décidera alors si le canal sera construit par ce gouvernement et, dans ce cas, laquelle des deux routes sera choisie.

"Costa Rica réalise la grande importance de ces travaux, les plus considérables peut-être qui aient jamais été entrepris dans ce siècle et contribue à les encourager, consultant son propre intérêt et l'impulsion que ce canal donnera au progrès du monde en général et principalement au développement des vastes ressources des nations de ce continent."

Ce discours terminé, M. le Dr. LUIS CUERVO MARQUEZ, Secrétaire de la Légation colombienne, prit ensuite la parole et s'exprima ainsi:

"Discuter la nécessité du percement d'un canal inter-océanique pour compléter l'œuvre du grand Balboa, cela est inutile, car les besoins quotidiens du commerce du monde deviennent tous les jours de plus en plus pressants et exigent que les eaux de l'Atlantique soient mises en communication avec celles du Pacifique dans le Continent américain.

"Le côté commercial ainsi que le côté technique de cette œuvre ont été examinés avec soin et il ne peut y avoir aucun doute sur la praticabilité de cette grande entreprise. Quant à la route qui doit être choisie, aucune incertitude ne peut exister, à mon avis.

"Les travaux de Panama représentent une accumulation d'efforts matériels et intellectuels qui ne pourront être égalés nulle part avant de nombreuses années, et ce serait un crime contre la civilisation de permettre qu'ils fussent perdus.

"La nation colombienne, suivant ses glorieuses traditions, n'a considéré dans cette affaire que les intérêts de la civilisation, et quand la concession pour le percement de ce canal dans son territoire fut accordée, elle la donna sans restriction excepté en ce qui concerne la souveraineté et l'intégrité de son territoire et les intérêts du commerce universel.

"La Colombie a aujourd'hui un Représentant Plénipotentiaire accrédité auprès du Gouvernement Français, pour étudier toutes les

questions relatives au canal de Panama et, du rapport de ce haut fonctionnaire dépendra, dans une large mesure, la décision qui sera prise à l'égard de ce sujet si délicat; mais je puis vous donner l'assurance que nous avons une entière liberté d'action et qu'il est indifférent à notre pays de quelle source proviendra le capital employé pour les travaux, pourvu que les garanties internationales qui existent maintenant ne soient pas mises en cause.

"Le grand peuple américain, dont l'étendard est le porte-respect de tous les droits, réalisera que les bénéfices qu'il obtiendra de l'achèvement du canal de Panama seront plus grands que ceux d'aucune autre nation du monde, et le percement de ce canal resserrera plus étroitement les liens d'amitié et de fraternité qui unissent le peuple de Colombie et la grande République du Nord."

Un grand partisan du canal de Nicaragua est l'Honorable J. J. Ulloa, Consul-Général de Costa-Rica, qui dit que le canal divisera les deux Républiques de Nicaragua et de Costa-Rica pour les unir ensuite plus étroitement et donnera aussi accès aux Etats-Unis dans l'Amérique Centrale où ils trouveront un grand champ d'exploitation pour les machines et les capitaux pour le développement d'un sol pratiquement vièrge qui n'a besoin seulement, pour rendre le triple en très peu de temps de la valeur de l'argent, que les travaux soient vigoureusement et soigneusement poursuivis.

Le Ministre des Etats-Unis à Costa-Rica, l'Honorable William Lawrence Merry, a ajouté quelques arguments en faveur du canal à travers le Nicaragua en faisant valoir l'économie de distances navigables, les conditions sanitaires favorables, la quantité d'eau qu'on pourrait retenir, la facilité avec laquelle on pourrait obtenir les matériaux de construction et les provisions de bouche, le profit que les localités environnantes tireraient et sa valeur stratégique.

Mr. H. A. Gudger, Consul des Etats-Unis à Panama et Mr. J. W. Humphreys, délégué de la Chambre de Commerce de Colon, lurent aussi des rapports démontrant les bénéfices (à leurs points de vue respectifs) qu'on obtiendrait en perçant un canal qui suivrait la route du Panama, ces opinions étant aussi partagées par M. le Colonel J. L. Percy, ancien Consul des Etats-Unis à Colon.

LA PRODUCTION DE L'OR ET DE L'ARGENT DU MONDE.

Les chiffres officiels de la production de l'or et de l'argent dans toutes les parties du monde pendant l'année 1898 ont été publiés le 26 octobre 1899 par le "Mint Bureau" des Etats-Unis, et les données sur le rendement de ces métaux pendant les trois dernières années sont des plus intéressantes. La production totale de l'or pour l'année 1898 est

estimée à $287,428,600, la République Sud-Africaine (Transvaal) occupant le premier rang, l'Australie et les Etats-Unis venant après et presque dans la même proportion. Viennent ensuite, par ordre, la Russie, le Canada, l'Inde, le Mexique et la Chine; les huit contrées ci-dessus fournissant 94 pour cent du total général.

Les tableaux qui suivent montrent la production de l'or et de l'argent dans les pays "Pan American" pendant les trois dernières années:

OR.

Pays.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Etats-Unis	$53,088,000	$57,363,000	$64,463,000
Mexique	6,500,000	7,500,000	8,500,000
République Argentine	315,000	137,700	137,700
Bolivie	250,000	343,500	343,500
Brésil	1,001,100	1,204,200	1,583,700
Chili	611,000	340,000	340,700
Colombie	2,200,100	2,227,200	2,263,200
Equateur	132,900	132,900	39,500
Pérou	116,600	628,000	628,000
Uruguay	33,600	38,500	38,500
Venezuela	948,500	1,057,400	1,057,400
Amérique Centrale	372,300	465,800	473,700

ARGENT.

	Onces.	*Onces.*	*Onces.*
Etas-Unis	58,834,800	53,860,000	54,438,000
Mexique	45,718,982	53,903,180	56,738,000
République Argentine	328,170	383,479	383,479
Bolivie	6,374,240	8,204,568	8,204,568
Chili	3,236,536	2,591,998	2,591,998
Colombie	3,407,004	5,047,328	5,483,717
Equateur	7,734	7,734	7,734
Pérou	3,847,078	3,278,602	1,951,240
Uruguay			
Venezuela			
Amérique Centrale	808,676	811,892	716,008

On peut se faire une idée de l'énorme augmentation de la production de l'or pendent les 12 dernières années, si on la compare avec la production totale de 1887 qui ne se montait seulement qu'à $106,000,000 et atteignait en 1892 le chiffre de $146,000,000 qui a été la plus forte somme qui ait jamais été obtenue, dans n'importe quelle année dans les annales du monde. On estime que la quantité d'or obtenue en 1898 est 8 fois plus grande que celle qui a été découverte en Californie en 1849. L'or employé dans les arts et les manufactures est évalué à $65,000,000, laissant $222,000,000 disponibles pour la fabrication de la monnaie.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VII. DECEMBER, 1899. No. 6.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics was held in the diplomatic reception room of the Department of State on Thursday, November 23, 1899.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. JOHN HAY, Secretary of State, as chairman.

The other members present were:

Señor Dr. DON MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Minister from the Argentine Republic.

Señor DON JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Minister from Costa Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director of the Bureau of the American Republics, was also present.

The object of the meeting having been stated by the Secretary of State to be the hearing of the annual report of the Director, the same was read by this gentleman. It was dated November 23, 1899, and is hereto appended.

The report having been found to be entirely satisfactory and acceptable by the members of the committee, on motion of Mr. MÉROU the thanks of the committee were tended to Mr. ROCKHILL for the faithful work he had done for the Bureau.

It was the unanimous opinion of the members present that with respect to the recommendations in the report the Director might exercise his own judgment, and at his request it was also resolved that the metric system be employed in estimating money, weights, and measures.

Mr. MÉROU next spoke as follows:

"Unfortunately for me this will be the last meeting which I will have the honor to attend as a member of the Executive Committee, because, as you are aware, I am going to leave for my country. I take this occasion to thank you for all your courtesies and to take leave of my colleagues of the Executive Committee, and I can assure you that in the new position I am about to occupy in my country I will take continued interest in this Bureau, of the Executive Committee of which I have had the honor to form a part. And I can assure Mr. ROCKHILL that he will find me always ready to give him my support, and I will speak to my Government of the usefulness and importance of this International Union of American Republics. I feel that the Bureau can not be in better hands, and I look forward with the certainty that he will in the future continue to make improvements which will tend to bring still closer the commercial relations between our countries."

The Secretary of State replied in these words:

"I am sure we are all very sorry indeed to part with Mr. MÉROU, who has been so intelligent and so devoted a member of the body. Yet, while we regret his departure, we can not but congratulate him upon the enlarged honors and responsibilities which his country has devolved upon him, and we are particularly pleased to learn that he is not to cease taking an interest in the work of this Bureau, but that in the exalted station which he will hereafter occupy in the public life of his own country he will be able to be of very great assistance to us all in the purpose to which we are devoted, of increasing the commercial relations between all the countries of this continent and in drawing closer the bonds of sympathy and friendship which now so happily exist among us."

On motion of Mr. CALVO, the Director of the Bureau was instructed to communicate to Minister MÉROU the expressions of the chairman of the committee on the occasion of his departure.

The committee then adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 23, 1899.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
Washington, November 23, 1899.

The Secretary of State, Chairman, and Members of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. FREDERIC EMORY, my predecessor in this office, submitted to you on March 29 his final report of the operations of this Bureau, supplementing his annual report dated December 17, 1898, and showing its condition down to within about a month of his transferring the office to me.

The accounts of the Bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, are as follows:

Receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Annual appropriation, 1899			$36,000.00
Balance from receipts from sales, rents, etc., July 1, 1898		$649.82	
Contributions from Latin-American Republics	$5,762.78		
From advertisements	$27,005.98		
From sale of publications	2,622.45		
	29,628.43		
		35,391.21	
			36,041.03
Total receipts			72,041.03

EXPENDITURES.

From annual appropriation, 1899	36,000.00	
From receipts from sales, rents, etc	34,409.73	
		70,409.73
Balance July 1, 1899		1,631.30

Detailed statement of expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899.

	From annual appropriation, 1899.	From receipts from sales, rents, etc.	Total.
Compensation	$30,783.08	$9,069.55	$39,852.63
Stationery	100.25	877.55	977.80
Rent	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Library	37.28	116.75	154.03
Postage	46.11	915.65	961.76
Furniture	22.65	149.75	172.40
Printing	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissions on advertising contracts made prior to March 1, 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Miscellaneous	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

From the foregoing statement it would appear that there was a credit balance of $1,631.30 on July 1, 1899, the beginning of the present fiscal year. This account does not, however, include the amount due the Public Printer for work done for this Bureau during the fiscal year then ending.

The following statement shows that at the commencement of the present fiscal year there remained an unpaid balance due for bills rendered by the Public Printer during the fiscal year 1897–98 of $6,388.09:

Account of Public Printer for fiscal year 1899.

Total amount of bills rendered for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899			$34,870.61
Deduct for amount charged for composition and presswork, which, by an arrangement with the Public Printer, is credited to the Bureau			2,982.48
Total amount to be paid			31,888.13
Paid from annual appropriation 1899		$3,279.25	
Paid from receipts from sales, rents, etc., during the fiscal year 1899	$14,707.28		
Paid during the current fiscal year	7,513.51		
		22,220.79	
Total amount paid			25,500.04
Balance unpaid			6,388.09

On assuming charge of this Bureau reductions in the expenses seemed urgently needed, especially as the revenue derivable from advertisements was constantly falling off and there was little prospect of an increase from this source.

By various changes made in the printing of the BULLETIN, without detracting from the quality of the work done in the printing office or the size of the edition, which has been kept at 11,000 copies, it is estimated that this publication can be brought out during the present year for a sum not in excess of $14,000.

The pay roll of the Bureau, though reduced by me so as to realize a net profit of $2,300 a year, on the present basis amounts to about $34,500 a year. This it is thought possible to further reduce, with the approval of your committee, so as to realize an appreciable economy without in any way affecting the working power of the office.

The printing of the handbooks does not occasion any considerable expense to the Bureau, and it is hoped that the work on them may be steadily and rapidly carried on.

In the past statements of the expenditures of the Bureau it will be noted that hardly anything was spent on account of the library. A considerable sum should be set aside for the purchase of publications and maps relating to South and Central America, but it is a source of deep regret that at the present rate of ordinary expenses of the Bureau this is not possible.

I submit herewith the following estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900:

Estimated receipts:		
Appropriation		$36,000.00
Contributions from Latin American Republics		15,813.53
Advertisements		3,000.00
Sale of publications		1,500.00
Total		56,313.53
Estimated expenditures at present ratio:		
Pay roll	$34,540.00	
Rent	2,000.00	
Printing	14,000.00	
Stationery and furniture	1,000.00	
Postage	900.00	
Miscellaneous	2,000:00	
		54,440.00
Balance		1,873.53

In the above the full amount due from the Latin American Republics has been estimated, though in past years it has fallen very considerably short (some $3,500) of that amount. Deducting this amount will leave a deficiency of about $1,700 for the year at the present rate of expenses, without any account being taken of the amount due the Public Printer on last year's account and some old outstanding claims against the Bureau. This it is hoped to cover by the reductions above suggested and by the collection of some of the outstanding debts on account of ad-

vertisements, for there is still due and unpaid on advertising contracts $3,858.74, some part of which may be possibly collected by the employment of agents who have recently been engaged for this purpose.

My predecessors have frequently expressed the belief that the cost of the BULLETIN could be met by the possible receipts from advertising. I can not think that this hope can be realized. Under the policy now pursued by the Bureau, upon instructions from your committee, and which meet with my hearty approval, the receipts from this source can not be counted on for more than $3,000 to $4,000 a year, for it is, I am credibly informed, a well established fact that advertisements are only given when solicited, a method of obtaining them properly prohibited by this office. In course of time the amounts derivable therefrom may become larger, but for the time being no considerable increase can be expected. Neither can the sales of the BULLETIN be counted on as a source of revenue, as the following statement will show:

Subscriptions for the Monthly Bulletin.

Year.	Annual.	Semi-annual.
1897	190	6
1898	160	12
1899	92	15

MONTHLY BULLETIN.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN, as previously stated, is published in an edition of 11,000 copies, of which about 9,000 copies are sent to the various countries of Central and South America, and some 1,300 distributed in the United States and other parts of the world. The following tabulated statement shows the number of copies of the BULLETIN sent to the various countries for the month of November of this year:

Distribution of Bulletin during month of November.

Argentine Republic	444	Haiti	196
Austria	2	Holland	1
Azores	1	Honduras	207
Belgium	3	Jamaica	60
Bolivia	56	Japan	1
Brazil	375	Mexico	5,101
Canada	171	New Zealand	1
Cape Verde Islands	5	Nicaragua	97
Chile	162	Paraguay	27
Colombia	184	Peru	133
Costa Rica	98	Porto Rico	200
Cuba	287	Salvador	25
Dominican Republic	140	United States	1,307
Ecuador	113	Uruguay	143
Egypt	1	Venezuela	546
England	5	West Indies (small islands)	38
France	7		
Germany	4	Total	10,636
Guatemala	495		

The diplomatic representatives in Washington of the States of the International Union have been, from time to time, supplied with the mailing lists of their respective countries and requested to make such alterations and additions as to them seemed desirable, and indicate means of extending the distribution of the Bureau's publications in their countries. By this means the circulation of the BULLETIN in South and Central America is steadily increasing, that for the current month being 865 larger than for October. It is suggested that if the postal franchise for the publications of the Bureau was extended by some of the Latin-American Republics which have not yet granted it, their distribution might be considerably increased.

It is to be regretted that such a small number of copies of the BULLETIN should be distributed in the United States. Though our people have other publications from which they may obtain information on the Latin-American Republics, it is confidently believed that in no other publication in this country can the same amount of recent and reliable information be obtained as in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. To extend the distribution of this publication I heartily concur in the suggestion of my predecessor, Mr. EMORY, that the Congress of the United States be requested to provide for an edition of 5,000 copies per month for the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1901, *for distribution in the United States*, as a means of promoting a better knowledge of the resources and commercial possibilities of the Latin-American Republics.

To render the BULLETIN more useful, the Bureau has endeavored to put to contribution all the periodical publications, as well those of Europe as of North and South America. At the present time 1,725 periodicals, including daily papers, are received, and all important information contained in them translated, compiled, or classed for reference. Translations are now made from the Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, and Italian languages. Steps have been taken to further increase the exchanges of the Bureau, and in carrying out this the Bureau has to express its sincere thanks to the Bureau of International Exchanges of the Smithsonian Institution, which has authorized its agents abroad to act for this office. It is confidently hoped that within a short time nearly all the periodical literature of interest to this Bureau will be regularly received. Lists of the periodicals received at the Bureau are now published in the BULLETIN, and the more valuable ones put on its permanent files. Others, not of particular value to the Bureau, are sent to the Library of Congress for its reading room.

As a further means of extending the sources of information of the Bureau and of making the BULLETIN a true reflex of the conditions prevailing in all the countries comprising the International Union, the cooperation has been sought of prominent and trustworthy persons in the various capitals of the Latin-American Republics, or their leading seaports, in the capacity of honorary corresponding members of the International Union, and they have been requested to supply the

Bureau from time to time with information which may extend and complete our knowledge of the economic conditions and resources of their respective countries.

The diplomatic representatives of the Latin-American Republics at Washington have all most courteously lent their assistance to the Bureau in securing the services of these corresponding members, and it is confidently believed that their contributions will very materially assist and improve its work.

The work of putting the BULLETIN through the press has, thanks to the interest shown in the Bureau's work by the Government Printer, been greatly expedited, so that it can now be distributed in about ten days after going to press, the usefulness of the BULLETIN being thereby considerably increased.

HANDBOOKS.

At the date of Mr. EMORY'S last report (December, 1898) the "Handbook of Venezuela" was in the hands of the Printer, and has since been published in two parts, viz: Part I in English, and Part II in Spanish. Owing to the inability to secure the latest map showing the new division of the States of the Republic this feature was omitted, as stated in the explanatory note prefacing the book.

Upon completion of this work, the translation from English into Spanish of the "Handbook of Mexico," already in page proof, was undertaken at the same time that the rendering into English of the Portuguese manuscript of the "Handbook of Brazil," written by the learned Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in Washington, Mr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, was in progress.

A communication was then sent to all the representatives of the countries of the International Union at Washington, requesting their official cooperation to secure the latest official data from their respective countries for new editions of the various handbooks, as well as their personal advice and aid in the work. The replies received have all been most favorable, and a number of books and other printed documents have already been supplied by them.

The Handbook of Mexico might have been finished by this time had it not been deemed advisable to prepare a more complete work, embracing certain features until now either lightly treated or totally disregarded, bringing the statistical data up to the latest available figures. Delay has also been occasioned in the preparation of this handbook through the necessity of compiling from the charts, maps, and other data available a new map of the Republic, on which will be indicated all data of an economic nature, areas of culture, forests, mines, railroads, telegraphic lines, etc., which may prove of use to readers. It is proposed to bring out from time to time, as soon as the data for the preparation is sufficiently abundant, similar maps of the various Republics, the want of which is much felt. The services of an experienced draftsman have been secured, the work on the map of Mexico begun,

and skeleton maps of the other Republics are in course of preparation (all on a uniform and large scale), on which information of the above character is being entered.

In order to make these handbooks thoroughly reliable, and if possible standard works in keeping with the importance of the Republics and of the Bureau's position as their representative, the services of prominent authorities in the United States and in the various Republics have been sought, and in some instances already secured, to prepare such portions of these books as require the attention of experts.

On the completion of the Handbooks of Mexico and Brazil the work on those of the other countries will follow, according to the greatest amount of data available at the time. Small editions will be published, and new ones issued as soon as more recent statistical and other matter is forthcoming.

LIBRARY.

Too much stress can not be laid on the importance for the Bureau in keeping its library up in every branch, so that it can discharge to the complete satisfaction of the International Union the duties assigned it. Every work, whether official or private, every map, every document relating to any of the Latin-American Republics should be found in it, for it is the one and only place in the United States where such publications will be naturally sought. Every effort of the Bureau will be given to reach this end, and with the kindly collaboration of the Diplomatic Representatives of the Latin-American Republics in Washington and their Governments, the learned societies of their various countries and individuals interested in its success, it is confidently hoped that it may be ultimately reached.

The total number of volumes now in the library is, approximately, 5,000. Of these many are miscellaneous literature not strictly appropriate to the character of a library for this Bureau, and few additions have been made to it in the last six years. It is desired to dispose of these useless works and of all duplicates by sale and exchange, and to allow room on the shelves for books pertinent to the American Republics and their interests. The books retained as a nucleus for future growth in the library are those which treat of—

(1) Agriculture and agricultural resources.
(2) Colonization and public lands.
(3) Commerce.
(4) Geographical works.
(5) History.
(6) Laws, Government reports, bills, and documents.
(7) Mines, mining, and mineral resources.
(8) Railroads.
(9) Statistics.
(10) Travel and description.
(11) Miscellaneous books of reference, dictionaries, etc.

The books now composing the library and all new accessions are being listed, classified, and arranged in a card catalogue under the different countries of which they treat. It is proposed to include in this catalogue an index of all important books concerning Latin America and its interests which may be found in the Congressional and Departmental libraries, including, as far as possible, the more important articles which have appeared in recent periodicals.

It is desired to perfect the collection of the laws, treaties with foreign powers, and official statistics of each of the countries represented in the library, which has fallen very much behindhand.

Letters have been sent to the Diplomatic Representatives of the various Republics in the United States, inclosing lists of the official publications of their countries now in the library, indicating the volumes wanting to complete sets, and asking them to secure for the library of the Bureau the current publications of their Governments. A considerable number of valuable publications has by this means been already secured, and all have most kindly assured the Bureau that they have taken steps to supply the needed works.

The atlases and loose sheet maps, only about 85 in number, have been collected and recorded on cards, and will be arranged so as to be easily accessible. Other libraries in Washington have been visited and lists made of all maps relating to Central and South America to be found there. These are being recorded on cards and will be placed for reference in the card catalogue kept in the library.

The number of periodicals received prior to September 1, 1899, was 1,034, of which 19 were subscriptions and 54 sent in exchange for the MONTHLY BULLETIN. There are now received regularly at the Bureau, by subscription, gift and exchange, 1,725 periodicals, including daily newspapers.

Hereafter accession lists will be published semiyearly and sent to the various libraries, public offices, and persons who may desire them.

The interest shown in and the cordial assistance given to this Bureau not only by the Executive Departments of the United States, but by all the Governments of the Latin-American Republics and their Diplomatic and Consular Officers in this country, is more marked and valuable every day, and thereby not only lightens the work assigned this Bureau, making it more valuable and far-reaching, but emphasizes its purely international character and the closeness of the Union.

Looking back at the services the Bureau has already been able to render during the ten years of its existence, and then forward at what it may be expected to do with every Republic of North and South America now taking an active part in promoting its usefulness, we may feel sure that it will more than realize the hopes of those who conceived it, and be a powerful agent in still further promoting, through a more extended, clearer, and better knowledge of the various countries of this continent, their peoples, their labors, and their modes of thought, not

only reciprocal commercial relations beneficial to all, and in opening more extensive markets for the products of each, but in making stronger the bonds of confidence and friendship between each and every country of the Union.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director*.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

DESTINATION OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

From a very interesting table prepared by the "Review of the River Plate," of Buenos Ayres, some idea of the natural wealth of the Argentine Republic can be formed. The figures given are the exports for nine months of 1899, ending with September 30, 1899. The total exports for this period were as follows: Wheat, 1,454,448 tons; maize, 664,137 tons; bran, 45,313 tons; quebracho, 121,409 tons; sugar, 18,298 tons; tallow, 112,356 casks; pollards, 145,131 bags; oilseed, 59,770 bags; birdseed, 541 bags; hay, 452,429 bales; tobacco, 9,782 bales; butter, 24,000 cases; frozen wethers, 1,597,132; wool, 305,533 bales; dry oxhides, 1,306,943; salt oxhides, 981,277; dry horsehides, 55,080; salt horsehides, 75,990; sheepskins, 44,141 bales; goatskins, 2,415 bales; hair, 2,883 bales.

The destinations of the principal part of these exports were as follows:

Great Britain.—Wheat, 172,412 tons; maize, 86,356 tons; linseed, 38,342 tons; sugar, 18,298 tons; quebracho, 7,663 tons; frozen wethers, 1,597,132; sheepskins, 5,190 bales; wool, 3,553 bales; dry oxhides, 21,691; salt oxhides, 12,788; tallow, 32,488 casks; oilseed, 16,935 bags; butter, 21,422 cases.

United States.—Dry oxhides, 791,738; salt oxhides, 10,359; sheepskins, 101 bales; hair, 1,057 bales; goatskins, 1,394 bales; wool, 9,885 bales; linseed, 1,160 tons; hay, 2,721 bales; quebracho, 5,272 tons.

France.—Wool, 155,135 bales; maize, 102,143 tons; wheat, 14,775 tons; linseed, 29,057 tons; dry oxhides, 34,738; salt oxhides, 73,018; sheepskins, 31,874 bales; pollards, 103,799 bags; quebracho, 3,377 tons; tallow, 6,665 casks.

Germany.—Wheat, 72,412 tons; maize, 53,280 tons; bran, 27,835 tons; linseed, 29,057 tons; quebracho, 49,528 tons; tobacco, 9,206 bales; oilseed, 36,939 bags; wool, 87,148 bales; dry oxhides, 117,122; salt oxhides, 515,330; dry horsehides, 55,080; salt horsehides, 75,990.

Belgium.—Wheat, 382,112 tons; maize, 78,122 tons; linseed, 46,631 tons; quebracho, 17,564 tons; wool, 44,723 bales; dry oxhides, 52,448; salt oxhides, 301,846.

Italy.—Wheat, 31,231 tons; maize, 30,371 tons; quebracho, 7,575 tons; dry oxhides, 151,746; salt oxhides, 35,354; sheepskins, 4,679 bales; wool, 5,098 bales; tallow, 32,090 casks.

Brazil.—Wheat, 67,966 tons; maize, 34,871 tons; wheat flour, 37,912 tons; tallow, 26,374 casks; butter, 2,577 cases.

Other countries, including orders.—Wheat, 713,540 tons; maize, 278,994 tons; linseed, 70,850 tons; quebracho, 30,430 tons; dry oxhides, 136,960; salt oxhides, 32,582; tallow, 13,935 casks; hay, 57,088 bales.

In the Argentine Republic a bale of wool, or sheepskins, or hair is 450 kilos (992.07 pounds); a bale of goatskins is 370 kilos (815.702 pounds); a bale of hay is 50 kilos (110.23 pounds); a cask of tallow is 100 kilos (220.46 pounds); a case of butter is 25 kilos (55.12 pounds).

MINERAL RESOURCES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

The September number of the "Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina" contains a paper upon the Argentine mineral wealth, and refers more especially to the Salta borate of lime deposits. The paper states that the Argentine mining industry is undoubtedly entering upon a new era; that this source of national wealth, so great and so varied, may be said to be as yet unexploited. The lack of capital and the absence of cheap and easy means of transportation have been the causes of the failure of many attempts to take advantage of this source of wealth, although the fineness and quality of the raw material augur undoubted benefits and advantages. Undertakings in this line have had anæmic existence, and despite the advances in industrial mechanics and modern processes of extraction, smelting, etc., the present output of the mines of the Republic is far inferior to that obtained during the colonial period, one hundred years ago, by primitive means. The several Administrations up to the present have given little or no attention to the immense mineral wealth of the country. No complete investigation or survey has been made to discover the deposits which could be easily worked in each Province and Territory. No geological map of the Republic or of each of the provinces has been made, as should have been done, in order to attract foreign capital and encourage the exploitation of the varied mineral elements, which will be a new and great source of public and private wealth.

The Bureau of Mines and Geology is lacking in the necessary personnel and elements to properly carry out the purposes of this organization. Statistics show that during the past year only a very small amount of ore was exported. This, in view of the enormous undeveloped wealth existing, contrasts with the figures of the Chilean exportation. Last year Chile exported minerals to the amount of £7,000,000, and has taken out of her coal mines 750,000 tons. But there the Administrations have for fifty years been studying and working the deposits. "No one doubts, given the immense area of the Argentine territory and its geological formation, identical with that of Chile, that we can

dispose of as much, if not more, mineral wealth as our neighbors on the Pacific." The working of coal and iron mines alone would produce an economic and industrial evolution in the Republic of indisputable importance and transcendence. A new and rich territory, the Puna de Atacama, has lately been incorporated into the Republic. There the borates, nitrates, and other minerals are found in enormous quantities. It becomes necessary, then, to obtain a complete knowledge of the existing wealth through scientific investigation and to open to industrial development this new, valuable, and inexhaustible source of production.

It is pleasant to note that several Members of Congress, representing the interior Provinces, are working assiduously along these lines. The commercial and industrial interests, which have been awakened of late by the rich and important deposits of borate of lime at Salta, Jujuy, Catamarca, and other Provinces, and those of the Puna de Atacama, are noteworthy. Several German, English, and Belgian syndicates have recently sent to Salta representatives to study its rich mines. Modern industry daily increases the applications and use of this mineral, whose quantity and quality are exceptional in the Provinces named. The samples in the possession of the Government in the Bureau of Mines and Geology and the analyses thereof leave no room for doubt. One company has petitioned the Legislature of Salta to grant it the monopoly of working the borates and the manufacture of boric acid and borax. There is already in the city of Buenos Ayres a manufactory which has been turning out these articles for five years, as well as a variety of other chemical products, furnishing nearly all the pharmacies and industries of the Republic with domestic products whose purity and conditions are not below similar products from abroad. This manufactory utilizes some 30,000 kilos per month of the Salta borate of lime, and turns out about 5,000 kilos of boric acid, which is, more or less, what the whole Republic consumes. Although it manufactures a product of superior quality, its price is much lower than that asked for the like product from abroad, and it has driven it out of the market, to the double benefit of the country and the consumer.

The paper next discusses the advisability of granting the company referred to the monopoly to work the borate deposits, and expresses an opinion adverse to the granting of the petition addressed to the Legislature. The author next urges the several Provincial Governments to study the mineral wealth abounding in their mountains and valleys, and to make annual appropriations to this end, thus awakening Argentine mining from its prostration and lethargy, and inviting foreign capital to develop latent resources. He cites the example of Chile, and the extent to which mineral products figure in her export statistics. He states that Chile has spent, in persistent scientific explorations, some hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last fifty years, and to-day receives ample compensation in the sum of £7,000,000, which represents

the value of mineral exports, besides nearly 800,000 tons of coal which were extracted from her mines. The paper closes as follows: "We to-day only export a ridiculous amount; we import iron, other minerals, and their manufactures to the extent of more than $30,000,000, gold, annually, and in ten years we have paid the foreigner for coal more than $60,000,000, gold. After these figures comment is unnecessary."

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER AND PAPER BOXES.

The "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" (Buenos Ayres) publishes a carefully prepared prospectus, showing that the manufacture of paper and paper boxes would prove a most profitable undertaking in the Argentine Republic. The author of this paper, Mr. EGIDIO A. ZANIBONI, has evidently studied the situation very carefully, and says in conclusion that there is hardly any other industry offering such chances of success in that country. The one factory now in existence there, notwithstanding its many defects, he thinks, is proof enough of the correctness of this statement. The author appeals to German capitalists and urges promptness, since others are in the field, and gives assurances that the paper industry will be the one which will not suffer in a crisis in the Republic.

The following estimate is given for a small and absolutely economical paper factory, using as raw material old paper, paper waste, etc.:

Small motor	$2,500.00
Entire cost of machinery, etc	17,908.50
Installing belting water	8,317.50
20,000 kilograms of straw, at $25 per thousand kilograms	500.00
100,000 kilograms waste paper, at $3.50 per hundred	3,500.00
Total	32,726.00

Calculation for 140 working days:

Raw material for 140 days, 800 kilograms per day, producing 112,000 kilograms of paper	4,000.00
Coal, labor, rent, interest, etc., $71.40 per day	9,996.00
Total cost	13,996.00

Production, 112,000 kilograms paper, at $32 per 100 kilograms, $35,840, showing a profit of $21,844 in 140 days on an investment of $32,726, or a profit for 280 working days of 140 per cent.

In regard to paper boxes it is stated that millions are imported every year from Europe and the United States, and as there is no factory for making these goods in the Argentine Republic there would appear to be absolutely no risk in starting one.

PROSPECTS FOR TRADE IN 1900.

The New York "Commercial Bulletin" says the number of inquiries from the Argentine Republic would indicate that the prospects for trade during the next year are favorable. According to information received

by United States merchants from their agents in Buenos Ayres, considerable electrical material will be required during the year 1900. The use of agricultural implements of United States manufacture in the Argentine Republic is almost general throughout the country, and the demand for new machinery is augmented by the fact that the farmers do not take that care of their implements that is done in European countries and in the United States. If the proper efforts are made business in machinery and other manufactured iron, as well as in railroad supplies and equipments, can be so increased as to surpass the present European trade. The "Commercial Bulletin" remarks that the only drawback is that the manufacturers do not cater to the Argentine demand, and that the present growing trade is in the hands of but few merchants.

Manufacturers transacting business direct with Buenos Ayres and Rosario are comparatively few. One of the secrets why the agricultural implement trade and the business in electric machinery and apparatus are gaining such headway in the cities named is because United States manufacturers have established agencies there, while in almost all other branches of trade the exporters intrust their Argentine business to their European agents. "It is true that a great deal of British and German capital is employed in the Argentine Republic, but, as local merchants thoroughly familiar with the situation there say, those very undertakings in which European capital is employed buy their requirements where it best suits them. Frequently Belgian material is bought in Buenos Ayres for a railroad which is operated altogether by a British company. There is said to be no patriotism in business in the Argentine Republic. A difference of a half of one per cent will capture a substantial contract, provided other things are equal." * * *

"There is hardly an item in the manufactured line in which some business could not be done with the Argentine Republic. All that is needed is proper push and an understanding as to how to obtain the trade which is recognized as the best of any of the South American countries."

TRADE WITH OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

The "La Plata Post" (the weekly edition of the Deutschen "La Plata Zeitung") gives considerable space to the discussion of the trade of the Argentine Republic with the neighboring States of Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil, from which it appears that the total imports from Chile to the Argentine Republic in 1898 amounted to $82,772, and for the five years 1894–1898 to $409,849. The total exports of the Argentine Republic to Chile amounted in 1898 to $1,354,494, and for the period 1894–1898 to $10,335,017, of which $9,958,266 represent the value of live cattle. The total value of the imports from Bolivia in 1898 was $57,208. The exports to Bolivia in the same year amounted to $408,813, entirely

live stock. From Brazil the Argentine Republic in 1898 imported $5,012,115, and in the five years between 1894–1898, $21,002,374. The exports to Brazil in 1898 amounted to $7,916,301, and in the five years 1894–1898 to $48,408,459.

IMPORTS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY.

A recent issue of the "Commercial Bulletin" contains an item to the effect that one of the largest shipments of harvesting machines sent this season to Buenos Ayres from the port of New York was taken by the steamship *Hermes*, it being valued at $114,233. The steamship *Manica*, which sailed a few days previous, also had on board harvesting machinery to the value of $100,000. The journal adds that the present season is making an extraordinary showing in the demand for all sorts of agricultural machinery from the Argentine Republic, and that further important shipments will occur. Next to agricultural implements, manufactured iron appears to be the commodity in demand, and if deliveries could have been possible, a very active season would be in progress. It is stated that in lines of manufactured articles, other than agricultural machinery and electrical supplies, England and Germany are still leading the United States in supplying the Argentine demand even in certain lines of goods made in the United States. With the shipping facilities now existing, a strong effort is being made by merchants to secure the business direct from New York. What is needed principally is the cooperation of the manufacturers, that they may strictly follow instructions and be willing to comply with requisites.

During the last week of November the shipments from the port of New York to the Argentine Republic were exceedingly satisfactory. They included $14,000 worth of carriages; $10,000 worth of hardware, $10,000 worth of rope, $108,000 worth of binder twine, $50,000 worth of agricultural implements, $17,000 worth of electrical material, and $11,000 worth of iron pipe.

EXPORTS OF SHEEP AND MUTTON.

On September 26, 1899, Hon. THOMAS R. FINCH, United States Minister to Montevideo, forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a statement from a local newspaper, giving the number of live sheep and frozen mutton carcasses shipped from the Argentine Republic to Brazil, England, Continental Europe, and South Africa from January 1 to August 31, 1899. This shows a grand total of 412,996 living animals and 1,330,966 "frozen wethers." Notwithstanding these immense shipments, there was a decrease in number from the same period in 1898, both in the exports of live animals and mutton. Then the aggregate of the former was 420,472 and of the latter 1,581,412. They illustrate, however, the immense resources of the country.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT AND EARNINGS.

The Argentine Republic has at present not less than 15,884 kilometers of railways. She now occupies the seventh position in this regard among the countries of the earth, as follows:

	Kilometers.		Kilometers.
United States	291,633	Argentine Republic	15,884
Germany	49,903	Brazil	14,035
Russia	41,233	Mexico	13,369
France	40,436	Chile	3,957
England	34,076	Uruguay	1,624
Austria-Hungary	31,794	Peru	1,587

The earnings of the most important of the Argentine railways in the past two years have been as follows:

	1898–99.	1897–98.	Increase 1898–99.
Argentine, Western	£414,089	£328,151	£85,938
Buenos Ayres, Southern	1,812,832	1,515,408	297,424
Santa Fé and Córdoba	134,606	90,996	43,610
Entre Rios	99,820	82,291	17,529
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	483,470	360,540	122,930
Buenos Ayres, Western	780,000	608.443	171,557
Córdoba and Rosario	154,900	108,000	46,900
Buenos Ayres and Rosario (six months)	482,962	420,131	62,831
Argentine, Central (six months)	685,720	532,828	152,892

Six of the above-named roads show a deficit calculated in the paper currency of the country as against the previous year, which, however, in view of the decrease in the gold premium has developed into considerable profit.

RECENT RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

"Transport," of London, for November 17, 1899, notes that a number of concessions have recently been granted in the Argentine Republic. Among these are a concession to Messrs. AGOSTINI & SCARSELLA for the construction of a port in the bay of Sanborombon, and also a railway concession for a line from the bay of Trenque-Lauquen, passing through Dolores, Las Flores, to Junin, another from Dolores to Azul, passing through Berruti, and another joining up the main line with Chascomus; a concession to Messrs. CORRALES & Co. for a railway starting from the River Paraná, in front of the city of Corrientes, and terminating on the frontier of the Republic of Bolivia, passing through Oran, with a branch to link the branches of the Central Northern road between Güemes and Jujuy. The Government is reported to have agreed to give the concessionaires 5,000 hectares of land in Chaco and Formosa for each kilometer of line constructed in those territories, said land concession not to exceed 180 leagues. A port is to be constructed on the Paraná.

TRADE WITH BELGIUM.

The exchanges between Belgium and the Argentine Republic, says the "Moniteur Official du Commerce" of November 9, 1899, increased last year. The imports show a total of 100,000,000 francs against 68,000,000 francs for 1897. This increase is noted especially in grains (38,000,000 against 13,000,000 francs) and in oleaginous seeds (10,700,000 against 4,800,000 francs). As to Belgian exports, an increase in value of nearly 4,000,000 over the year 1897 is noted, the principal increase being in cotton goods (2,180,000 against 1,638,000 francs).

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A recent report from Buenos Ayres is to the effect that the return visit of Dr. CAMPOS SALLES, President of Brazil, to General ROCA, President of the Argentine Republic, will take place in March or April, 1900, and that great preparations are being made for his reception. Dr. MARCELO T. DE ALVEAR has placed his magnificent house at the disposal of the Government, and it will be used by President SALLES while in Buenos Ayres. Mr. ANGEL T. DE ALVEAR, a brother of the first-named gentleman, who is the owner of a large ranch ("San Jacinto") in the Province of Buenos Ayres, will also entertain the President, on which occasion it is intended to have a round-up of 50,000 head of cattle, 100,000 sheep, 4,000 blooded horses, and 5,000 steers. The employees of the ranch will be dressed in their gala attire, and the affair promises to be a most interesting and unique exhibit of the sources of wealth of the Argentine Republic.

The death is announced of a distinguished engineer, Mr. G. E. STEVENSON, as the result of a gas explosion in Manchester, England, on October 30. Mr. STEVENSON was a citizen of the United States, having been born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his practical training at the London and Brighton (England) Railway Works, and, like many other bright engineers, was attracted to South America by the inducements offered. For six years (1885 to 1891) he resided in Buenos Ayres, and while an inhabitant of that city he constructed the works of the River Plate Gas Company and also the gas works at La Plata and Paraná.

The "London Times" of November 18, 1899, contains a dispatch from Buenos Ayres, under date of November 17, which says that "official data published to-day rectify the total of the home and foreign debt, putting it at £97,000,000. This is equivalent to £20 per inhabitant. The service of the debt amounts to £6,000,000, or half the total revenue, representing 30 shillings per head. The real position, however, is that the total debt is £105,000,000, or £26 per head; while the service amounts to 30 shillings per head."

The steamship *Riverton*, which sailed from New York on November 24, 1899, carried a large cargo of electrical equipments for the port of Buenos Ayres. The shipments included ten trolley cars, manufactured in Dayton, Ohio; motor trucks from a Kingston, New York, factory; several double-motor equipments, with electric brakes, from Schenectady, New York, and a number of car-fenders from Providence, Rhode Island. The value of these equipments, which were for Buenos Ayres electric tramways, was about $50,000.

The Governor of the Territory of Misiones has sent to the Minister of Agriculture a petition filed by Señores A. TRASBACH and C. MASCEREÑO requesting authority to establish a colony to devote itself to the planting of grapevines and wine making, the petitioners agreeing to collect a number of families to engage in the industry. In exchange the petitioners ask the Government to grant them an area of 40 hectares for each family, their passages to the colony, and means necessary for housing themselves.

The "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" states that the value of the wool to be exported this year from the Argentine Republic will amount to upward of $70,000,000 gold. While the number of bales will probably not exceed the previous year's production, the better results of the washing of the wool will increase its value.

German papers state that an association has been formed in Hanover, Germany, entitled the "Deutsch-Argentinische Bergbau Gesellschaft Maria." The object of the association is to acquire mining properties in South America, especially in the Argentine Republic and Peru.

The Legislature of the Province of Santa Fe has enacted a law declaring exempt of all taxes for the period of four years the cotton and woolen mills that may be established therein. Starch, paper, cordage, and straw-hat factories enjoy a like exemption.

The nomination of Hon. William P. Lord, of Oregon, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic, was confirmed by the United States Senate on December 14, 1899.

It is reported that a German mortgage bank is to be established in Buenos Ayres, under the name of "Banco Hipotecario Alemán del Rio de la Plata." The capital is to be 15,000,000 pesos gold.

The concessionaries of the railroad from Chumbicha to Tinogasta have discovered in the Province of La Rioja important borax mines, the working of which will be very valuable.

BOLIVIA.

IMPORT TRADE AT POTOSÍ.

Potosí is a very important import center, taking into consideration the scarcity of its population. Its trade will still increase in proportion with the building of railroads to run through the mining regions. The lack of means of communication, the broken character of the land, the inundations of the rivers during the rainy season, and the great distances between the different zones of production all tend to make the products of the country more expensive than those from abroad. With the exception of lumber and dry fodder, which can not be imported with profit, except in the cities near the railroads, the foreign manufactured products penetrate in the most remote places of Bolivia.

Sugar formerly came from Santa Cruz, and sold for 32 bolivianos per quintal of 46 kilograms. To-day it comes from Germany and Belgium, and costs 20 bolivianos. Brandies have been replaced by alcohol of 40 degrees. The Indians mix it with water for drinking. Formerly Peru held the monopoly of this trade, but to-day Chile and Germany have absorbed the greater part.

The principal articles imported are cotton and linen goods, silks, and furniture of all kinds. About ten years ago furniture was imported from France, England, and the United States. As this branch of commerce extended, competition was established, and Germany and Belgium at present furnish cheap furniture of good appearance, but of inferior quality, in which manufacturers of other countries do not compete. England is the principal importer in Bolivia, Germany comes next, and France third.

RECENT TARIFF CONCESSION.

A dispatch dated Rio de Janeiro, November 15, 1899, states that the Bolivian Government has declared free of duty all merchandise shipped from Brazilian ports to Acre, until September, 1900. American and European goods enjoy the benefits of this decree. It is also stated that the Government is going to reopen the custom-house at Puerto Alonzo.

THE HUANCHACA SILVER MINES.

"The Engineering and Mining Journal" reports that the Huanchaca Mining Company has undertaken the work of placing their great silver mines on the footing they ought to have held long ago. The management of the mines is to be thoroughly re-formed, with a view to hereafter conducting the work in a systematic way and of relieving the mines of the water which, for the past two or three years, has seriously interfered with portions of the lower level.

The French financial papers report that Guggenheim Brothers, of New York City, have advanced this company $300,000, which is to be repaid in half-yearly installments of $75,000 each. These papers further state that the Guggenheim Brothers have taken in hand the extensive reduction works at Playa Blanca and will operate them. Under the agreement the Huanchaca Company will furnish the ores to the reduction works and the profits will be divided between the miner and the smelter. The Guggenheim house also takes an option running six years of the products of the works at a valuation of $300,000, with a rental or royalty of $6 per "cajon" (a special car or receptacle for ore) of ore delivered at the works by the Huanchaca Company. This royalty or premium is to run for fifteen years, the company binding itself to deliver a minimum of 10,000 "cajons" per year.

NEW RAILWAY PROJECT.

The "Jornal do Commercio" states that the Bolivian Government in July last appointed a technical commission for the purpose of working out a project for a railway whose destination shall be the River Acre. A French syndicate will, it is said, bear the expenses of this commission.

BRAZIL.

COMMERCIAL HOUSES IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

The Consul-General of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, Mr. EUGENE SEEGER, has recently returned from an extended trip through southern Brazil and has forwarded the result of his investigations to the Department of State at Washington. In his opinion, there is nowhere a more lucrative field for legitimate enterprise, and he expresses surprise that the people of the United States should refrain from entering into competition with Europeans in a sphere of such exceptional promise. To quote Mr. SEEGER'S words: "Of course we can not send colonists, but we can send ships with merchandise and improved machinery; we can send capital, with engineers and electricians; we can build railroads, bridges, and factories; we can organize new industries and improve the old ones; and we can show an industrious, hard-working, and sympathetic people how to fight the battle of life with improved weapons."

With the object of promoting such commercial intercourse, the Consul has prepared a list of the more important import houses in the States of Parana, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul, which is here reproduced for the benefit of merchants in the United States seeking additional markets. It should be added that by publishing the list referred to no financial responsibility for resulting transactions is assumed by the Bureau of the American Republics.

IMPORT HOUSES IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL.

STATE OF PARANA.

Curityba (capital and commercial center of the State of Parana).—Burmester, Thon & Co., general importers; J. Hauer & Sons, general importers; Charles Withers & Co., hardware, china, etc.; Carl Meisner; A. von Mein & Co.

STATE OF SANTA CATHARINA.

Joinville.—A. & Oscar Baptista; Oscar Anton Schneider, large import and export house, doing business in lard, kerosene, and machinery; Hermann Lepper & Co., importers and exporters; Companha Industrial, importers and exporters.

Blumenau.—Gustav Salinger & Co. (Gust. Salinger and Peter Ch. Feddersen); Altenburg, Filho & Co.; Heinrich Probst; Hermann Sachtleben; Friedrich Blohm; H. Brandes, drugs; Henry Clasen; Alwin Schrader; Leopold F. Hoeschl; August Kennecke, druggist.

Destero. (*Florianápolis.*)—Carl Hoepcke & Co.; Ernest Vahl & Co.; Wenthausen & Co.

Itajaky.—Asseburg & Willerding; A. Konder; Nicolau Malburg; Rudolf Krause, steam sawmill, cedar box factory, dealer in hard woods, and lumber.

STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

City of Rio Grande do Sul.—Thomsen & Co.; E. H. Muëller; Viuva Claussen, successor to Aretz & Co. (also at Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, and Hamburg, Germany); Fraebe, Nickele & Co. (also at Porto Alegre); George Varecke, commission merchant and ship chandler; Englebrecht & Co.

Porto Alegre.—Importers of hardware: Bromberg & Co., machines; Marcinio Mattos; Jung, Jacobi & Co.; H. Brunckhorst & Co.; V. Deistel & Co.; União de Ferros, Bins Bromberg Daudt & Co., iron in bars; Antonio dos Santos Rocha; Carlos Daudt & Co.; Edwards, Cooper & Co., machines; Luiz Rothfuchs, iron in bars; Dörken & Co.; H. Theodor Möller & Co.; B. Wahrlich; Felippe Becker; Augusto Goebel; F. Schneiders; Moraes & Co.; Reinbott & Sattler.

Foundries: F. Bertschinger & Co.; F. Sanders & Co.; E. Berta & Co.

Musical instrument dealers: José Gertum & Co.; Honorio Mariante; A. Fehlauer.

Wholesale dry goods: Jacobi & Co.; Englebrecht & Co.; Fraeb Nieckele & Co.; Ernesto Haeussler & Co.; A. Leao & Co.; H. Lüderitz & Co.; Ernesto Fontoura & Co.; A. C. da Fontoura Filho; A. Schütt & Co.; Archer Luce & Co.; J. A. da Foutoura Freitas; H. D. Meyer; Bastian & Co.; Chaves & Almeida; José Bina & Co.; Ely & Co.; A. C. F. Peixotó, successors; Carneiro & Martins; Chaves & Filhos; Teltscher & Co.; Nunes & Carvalho; A. Freytag & Co.; F. G. Bier & Co.; Fernando Rech & Co.; Barcellos & Soares; Mostardeiro Irmaos & Co.; Sebastião de Barros; Ant. Carneiro da Fontoura; G. Livonius;

Otto Hasche & Co.; Levy & Issler; Dias & Co.; Frank Weimann & Co.; J. G. Magnus; Nicolas Köhler & Co.

Wholesale grocers: Azevedo Irmaos & Co.; José Dias & Co.; Santos Netto & Co.; João Soerner & Co.; Carlos Marino; Costa Leite & Filhos; Franco Ramos & Co.; Otero Gomes & Co.; C. H. Menke; Miranda & Co.; Julio Issler & Co.; A. Cademartori & Co.; Horacio Carvalho & Co.; Lopez Irmaos; Santos Zacharias & Co.; C. Torres & Co.; E. Arnt & Co.; Jung Dreher; Correa Leite & Co.; João Aydos; Albino J. da Cunha; Dias & Co.; A. Zerboni; F. Dexheimer & Co.; Adolpho Silva & Co.; Felix H. Kessler; Fraeb N. Kele & Co.; Viuva Claussen & Co.

China and earthenware: Chris. Reuter; Germ. Güttler; P. C. Porto & Co.; Virgilio Boeira & Co.; L. H. Rozet; Rosa Irmaos & Co.; Brutschke & Harbich.

Notions, etc.: Goncalves H. de Carvalho & Co.; Felizardo & Co.; Manoel Poeta; João Lartigau; Esteves Barboza & Co.; Fructuoso, Fontoura & Ilha; Ant. Araujo Vianna.

Commission merchants: Hugo Gertum & Co.; Felix H. Kessler; Gamellas & Bento; Nic. Köhler & Filhos.

Wholesale druggists: N. Dapelo & Co.; Pasquier, Fischer & Guimarães; Schröder & Co.; Companha Pharmaceutica e Industrial; Geyer & Co.; Tancredo A. de Leão; Drogaria Inglesa.

Arms, weapons, sportsmen's goods: João Bergmann; Rist & Garcia.

Machines, implements, etc.: Bromberg & Co.; José Becker & Irmão.

Booksellers: Gundlach & Krahe; H. Echenique & Co.; Livraria Americana; Rodolpho J. Machado; Carlos F. Pinto & Co.; João Mayer & Co.; Franco Irmãos; L. P. Barcellos & Co.

Manufacturing and wholesale jewelers: Dyonisio G. Magalhaes; E. Jeanneret; A. Fehlauer; Leopoldo Masson & Co.

Export houses: Vva. Claussen & Co.; Fraeb Nickele & Co.

Sewing machines: João Steenhagen.

Building materials: Bins & Friederichs.

Breweries: F. Christoffel, successor; Henr. Ritter Fo.

Umbrellas and parasols: J. Dapelo.

Shipbrokers: C. Booth; Nicolao Maehlmann.

Importing tailors: Augusto Reichardt & Co.; Germano Peterson, jr.

Manufacturers of hats and caps: A. Roever; João Birnfeld.

Tobacconists: Domingos Martins de Longa; Martins de Lima.

Furniture: Adam Hoffmann.

Soaps: Adolfo Voigt; Carlos L. Dubois; Jacob Kappel.

PROJECTED CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The "Moniteur Officiel," of November 2, publishes a communication, dated September 26, from M. DE LAVAUR, French Minister at Rio de Janeiro, on the projected new Brazilian customs tariff, which reads in substance as follows:

"The Commission on Customs Tariffs presented to the Brazilian

House of Representatives a report, published in the 'Diario Official' of the 18th of September, on the proposed adoption of a system of maximum and minimum tariffs.

"According to the terms of this report the Commission has judged it expedient to impose two schedules in the tariff—one applicable to the countries which have made or will make concessions to Brazil on their import duties of coffee and other Brazilian products, the other, a general one, applicable to the countries which maintain high tariffs. The Brazilian Government will reserve the right of indicating to the custom-houses of the Union the taxes which shall be levied on the products of the different countries. 'What diplomacy can not obtain the commercial and economic interest can often have granted.'"

"France, continues the report, levies 1.56 francs on the coffee bean and 1.66 francs on roasted or ground coffee when it is imported directly from abroad, and 2.08 francs and 2.11 francs, respectively, when it comes from European warehouses. France ought to make a concession to Brazil to compensate for what Brazil receives from her. The actual consumption of coffee in France is insignificant in view of its population. It may be said that in that country coffee is reserved to the well-to-do classes because of its retail price, which is excessive on account of the import duty, which is almost three times as much as the coffee is valued at in Brazilian ports.

"It is only necessary for France to make a reduction of 50 per cent in the import duty to considerably increase its consumption. This, it is added, is precisely the tariff applied to coffee of French and other colonies, and also to the countries of Indo-China.

"The so-called French products do not to-day, as formerly, constitute an exclusive specialty of France, as similar products are to be found in other countries. Thus Brazil can demand this reduction, and if the French Government does not choose to grant it we will be forced to give our trade to other countries which agree with us that this is but equity and justice.

"Care has been taken in the schedule not to make the tariff too high on the products of the country, however rare they are, of exclusively French origin; that is to say, products which Brazil can only obtain in France.

"Regarding Italy, the report of the Commission speaks as follows:

"Italy maintains on the importation of Brazilian coffee—the consumption of which is almost nil—a tariff identical to that of France. If a reasonable tariff were adopted by the country the results can be imagined, in view of the fact that thousands of Italians, in consequence of their stay in Brazil, have become coffee drinkers; the consumption would increase greatly, and this increase could not fail to exercise a happy influence on the revenues of Italy.

"The double tariff has, in the opinion of the Commission, another advantage, that of serving as 'correctives' to the measures eventually

taken by the countries who would adopt a policy of commercial retaliation. This applies to the United States, where import duties are not collected on coffee, but where it is said there is talk of establishing one of 3 cents per pound.

"The report of the Commission next points out that the necessary interest of the case should force the Federal Government to establish an import duty on wheat; but it is expected that the conclusions of the Commission on this point will raise the strong opposition of the English companies which have built flouring mills in Brazil, which a tax on wheat would injure.

"The Commission next calls the attention to the necessity of exacting a certificate of origin on all merchandise imported into Brazil, so that the countries which have no right to a minimum tariff can not profit by it.

"The bill under discussion grants to the Government the authority or privilege of modifying entirely or partially the general tariff laws, limiting reduction, however, to the rates provided in the minimum tariff. This stipulation is directed, perhaps, to the countries which, like Austria-Hungary, levy a duty on coffee, which, though not so high as in France and Italy, still seems excessive to the Brazilian seller. Between the general tariff and the minimum a medium term would be applied to the productions of this country; but this is only a conjecture, for the exact meaning of this stipulation, so largely discretionary, can only be determined by the discussion which it will raise or else by the manner in which it will be applied."

The Italian Minister to Brazil, Count ANTONELLI, is quoted by the Brazilian newspapers as favoring a reduction of not less than 50 per cent of the duties now imposed on the coffees of Brazil entering Italian ports, in order to prevent the application of the maximum tariff to importations into Brazil from Italy. However, the Italian Minister of Finance does not altogether regard the proposition in a favorable light, for the reason that the revenue received by his Government from duties on coffee amount to 6,500,000 lire annually. Besides this, other nations might regard such action as being contrary to "the most favored nation" clause in existing treaties. The "Gazetta das Noticias," of Rio de Janeiro, says that Count ANTONELLI has answered these objections so successfully as to raise earnest hopes of bringing about an agreement. Another factor which is believed to have had considerable influence with the Minister of Finance was the initiation of a movement for the establishment of a great market for Brazilian coffees at Genoa, the effect of which might be the stimulation of the importation of coffee into Italy to such proportions as to more than compensate the Italian Government for any loss caused by the proposed reduction in the rate.

With regard to the negotiations on the behalf of the Brazilian coffee growers with the French Government (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, pp. 290, 291), not a great deal has as yet been accomplished. An exchange of ideas on the subject has taken place between Dr.

OLYNTHO MAGALHAES, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Vicomte DE LAVAUR the French Minister at Rio de Janeiro. The latter is reported to have asked for instructions from his Government. He also is said to be favorable to a considerable reduction by his Government of the duties on Brazilian-grown coffees for the same reason that the Italian Minister is quoted as giving—a maximum tariff on French importations "would be of only too great advantage to the redoubtable commercial rivals of France in Brazil."

A dispatch dated Rio de Janeiro, November 25, 1899, states that "the Brazilian Government has notified the French, Italian, and Spanish Governments that Brazil henceforth will adopt differential tariffs against excessive taxes on coffee. Negotiations have also been opened with the view of obtaining treaties favoring Brazilian products."

A dispatch dated Paris, France, December 1, 1899, says "negotiations are about to be opened with the view of allowing Brazil a reduction of about 10 francs on the tax on coffee, on conditions that French products are given the most-favored-nation treatment. Should the negotiations fail, the maximum tariff will be applied to Brazilian coffee."

WARNING TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The "Deutsche Export Zeitung," of Berlin, says that according to the postal regulations of Brazil it is prohibited to mail in an ordinary letter or a registered letter treasury or bank notes, certified checks, coupons for dividends of interest, lottery tickets, postage stamps, postage certificates, revenue stamps of the Treasury of the Republic or of any of the several States, or any other papers of value payable either at sight or to the bearer, no matter whether they be due or not. Infringements of this regulation will result in the confiscation of a fourth part of the inclosed values. It would appear from the statement of the journal named that the Brazilian postal authorities are applying this regulation also to foreign mail. The "Board of Trade Journal," of Great Britain, in noting this fact in its issue for November, says in order to avoid trouble and damages it will, therefore, commend itself to foreign correspondents to refrain, for the present, from forwarding papers of the aforesaid description to Brazil by means of ordinary or registered letters.

CHANGES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

The First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in London, Dr. JOÃO CORDEIRO DO REGO BARROS, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Peru. Senhor BARROS was very popular in diplomatic circles in the British metropolis.

The "Jornal do Commercio" announces that the following diplomatic changes have been made or are in contemplation: To London, Senhor OLIVEIRA LIMA; to Montevideo, Senhor RODRIGUES TORRES; to

Brussels, Senhor ARTHUR STOCKLER; to Lima, Senhor CARDOSA DE OLIVEIRA; to Santiago, Chile, Senhor SAN VALLE.

Senhor ALFREDO DE MORAES GOMES FERREIRA has been appointed First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in Paris, and has assumed the duties of his post. In the absence of Senhor GABRIEL DE PISA the new appointee is also discharging the functions of Chargé d'Affaires. Senhor FERREIRA has successively been Attaché and Secretary of the Legation of his country in Chile, England, the United States, and Uruguay.

The Brazilian Minister at Asunción, Senhor BRASILIO ITIBIRÉ, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted, according to a correspondent of the "South American Journal."

Mr. MORITZ HERRMANN has been appointed Brazilian Consul in Berlin, Germany.

ADMISSION OF MINING MATERIAL.

The Tariff Commission of the Brazilian House of Representatives, with a view of encouraging the development of the mining industry, has introduced a resolution for the free entry of machinery, metals, metalloids, and explosives employed in mining. An *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent only will be maintained for their storage in the custom-house.

The State of Minas Geraes, the principal mining region of Brazil, adopted September 18, 1899, a very liberal mining law, granting the owners the right of investigating and exploiting the subsoil.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the new contract concluded between the State Government and Messrs. FIORITA & CO., of Italy, the steamers of these ship-owners will make two monthly trips to Manãos, touching at Marseilles, Barcelona, Tangiers, Lisbon, Leixoes, Ponta Delgada, Belém, Parintins, and Stacoatiara. Moreover, the company will establish at Rome, Milan, Turin, and Genoa four bureaus of propaganda and information concerning the State of Amazonas, where the principal natural products of the Amazonian industry will be exhibited.

A crusade is being made against rats in the city of Santos, the great coffee-shipping port in the State of São Paulo. Not only is a price put upon the unpopular rodent's head by the authorities, but the carcass of each is officially cremated. The rat is thought to convey infectious diseases, such as the plague, carrying them from the shore to a ship and then to the shore of a distant port; hence the precautions of the Brazilian authorities where a disease resembling the plague has broken out.

The session of Congress for 1899 closed on November 22 last without improving the financial and commercial situation of the country. The

revenue and appropriation bills were passed near the end of the session. The general revenues, including new taxes, are estimated at 289,000 contos in paper and nearly 45,000 contos in gold. The appropriations aggregate 263,162,276 milreis in paper, 36,973,643 milreis in gold.

The preliminary work on the railway in Rio Grande do Sul has been completed as far as Rio Santo Christo. A distance of 450 kilometers has already been completed.

On December 5, 1899, the United States Patent Office issued to ANTONIO I. GONSALVES, of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, letters patent on his invention of a window stop.

CHILE.

UNDEVELOPED WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCES.

In a report addressed to the President of the Chilean Republic the ex-Intendant of the Chilean province of Coquimbo makes some interesting statements regarding the conditions and the resources of the northern Chilean provinces. He calls attention to the fact that for several years he has made a fight for the development of means of communication, which he has always considered as indispensable to the prosperity of the country. Between Higuera and Vallemar, he says, there are a large number of rich deposits of manganese, copper, silver, and gold ore, which, if opened up for development, would immediately improve the financial situation of the country. There is, it is asserted, enough manganese to supply the whole world; copper veins of such numbers and dimensions (and such abundance) and of such a high grade that their development would enable Chile to recover its former rank as furnishing 75 per cent of the supply of the world. The report does not dwell on the subject of the silver mines of Coquimbo and of Atacama, their importance being universally recognized; but what is not so generally known, adds the writer, is the existence of gold in such large quantities that if the means of communication were established in conditions favorable for development the production of gold would equal in weight the actual production of the silver.

According to an expert engineer who has heard reports in Europe and Chile on the subject of the wealth of the copper deposits between Vallemar and Higuera, all the data is much underestimated. A personal exploration has shown him that the veins extend for several kilometers in length and that their width varies between 6 and 20 meters, with depths of 50, 100, and 150 meters, and sometimes even more. The quality of the ore is good, and the average yield is 10 to 15 per cent of copper. The same expert explored a number of hills and became convinced that at some time, perhaps soon, they will yield immense

quantities of gold. The average yield is estimated at 70 piasters in gold to each ton of ore.

In consequence of the geological configuration of the hills and the lack of vegetation the mining of these deposits is comparatively easy and sure; but, the report continues, nothing can be attempted before the establishment of sufficient means of communication. In consequence of the lack of these means mines are seen which could furnish work to more than 500 miners and daily yield 100 tons of copper of from 8 to 9 per cent, but which now only employ 12 or 14 miners, extracting monthly only a few tons of mineral of the highest quality, that being the only kind of ore which can stand the exorbitant expense of transportation. These expenses can be estimated, says the writer, at 20 piasters per ton for a distance of 60 kilometers—a price which could easily be reduced to a tenth of that amount, or 2 piasters.

It is really deplorable, he adds, that this region, so richly endowed by nature, is called a desert, when a railroad, which could be easily built, would transform the country into one of the most prosperous regions of the globe. In proof of the existence of such wealth the case of a mine is cited which could be taken as a type of several others, the veins of which extend for 2 kilometers, with a width of 6 meters, a depth of 200 meters, the average yield being 5 per cent. These figures represent 7,000,000 tons of ore, which, on a basis of 5 per cent, would give 350,000 tons of copper, of a total value of 300,000,000 piasters. The report concludes with the statement that the country situated between Vallemar and Higuera can be considered the richest of the metalliferous regions of the world and that all that is necessary for its development is the construction of means of communication.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

At the time of the ministerial crisis which came about in the middle of November the only Minister who went out was Señor RAFAEL SOTOMAYOR, Minister of the Interior and Premier, who has been succeeded by Señor ELIAS FERNÁNDEZ ALBANO, who has heretofore filled the Ministries of Industry and Public Works, of War and the Navy, and of the Treasury. Another new addition to the Ministry is Señor Don RICARDO MATTE, who succeeded Señor Don CÁRLOS CONCHA SUBERCASEAUX as Minister of War and the Navy. Señor SUBERCASEAUX did not go out at the time of the crisis, but had been appointed Minister of Chile to the Argentine Republic prior to the crisis. Señor MATTE had previously been the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Ministry as it now stands is as follows:

Minister of the Interior, Señor ELIAS FERNÁNDEZ ALBANO.

Minister of Foreign Relations, Worship and Colonization, Señor RAFAEL ERRÁZURIZ URMENETA.

Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Señor FRANCISCO HERBOZO.

Minister of Finance, Señor MANUEL SALINAS.
Minister of War and the Navy, Señor RICARDO MATTE.
Minister of Industry and Public Works, Señor JOSÉ FLORENCIO VÁLDEZ CUEVAS.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES IN 1900.

At the first session of the Senate of Chile the joint committee of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, to which was referred the appropriation bill for 1900, presented its report. The estimates for the coming year, as submitted by the administration, were as follows: Receipts, $109,749,949.44;[1] expenditures, $104,263,578.67. The committee suggested some amendments and made several reductions. The Minister of Finance in his report to the Senate stated that, according to the estimates of the committee, the receipts collected and to be collected during the current year (1899) would amount to the sum of $117,604,790.11. The committee deducts from this amount the sum of $2,916,000, which represents the sum invested in bonds of the Caja Hipotecaria, pursuant to Article V of the law of July 31, 1898. This deduction will leave an available balance for the current year of $114,964,434.76. The Minister agreed with the estimate of expenses already incurred or to be incurred, in the sum of $104,576,193.15. Deducting this sum from the preceding amount, there remains a balance of $10,838,814.61.

This, then, is the available balance, but the Minister also agreed with the Committee in that a great part of this surplus would be absorbed by the expenditures required for the repair of the damages caused by the late floods to railway lines, bridges and roads, and the Valparaiso breakwater. According to the information, still very sparse, which the Government was able to obtain in the premises, the repair of the damages suffered by the State railways will require the expenditure of $2,500,000, and this only including the reconstruction of temporary bridges. For the repair of roads and bridges on highways, Congress has been asked to appropriate the sum of $450,000, which will probably have to be increased to $500,000. From the reports just received from the Commission charged with making the estimates of the cost to repair the Valparaiso breakwater, the work will require the expenditure of from $300,000 to $400,000. In the aggregate the several works referred to will involve a minimum expenditure of $3,300,000. There are, besides, now before Congress several projects calling for special disbursements, which may involve the extraordinary expenditure of from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000.

The Minister, for the reasons cited, deemed it imprudent to fix the available surplus for the present year at a figure greater than $4,000,000. This amount added to the $109,749,949, at which the receipts for the

[1] All the amounts mentioned are in Chilean currency. Some items in the appropriation bill are in gold, which is reduced to the domestic currency by adding 10 per cent.

coming year are estimated by the Committee, there would be an available total of $113,749,949. The estimate for expenditures for 1900, with the modifications introduced by the Committee, amount to the sum of $104,169,611, being $93,967 less than the executive estimates. "Although the difference between the receipts and expenditures, according to these figures, gives a surplus of $9,586,338, I concur with the Committee in the advisability of exercising every possible economy in the public expenses. The experience of the present year is sufficient to show us that in the extraordinary demands of the public service, or in expenditures authorized by special laws, there may be consumed, outside the estimates, amounts equal to that represented by the estimated surplus for the coming year. Nor would it be prudent, moreover, to rely upon a considerable increase in the revenues growing out of the export duty on nitrates, since the producers continue bent on reorganizing the nitrate trust, in order to limit the production and prevent the persistent falling off in the price of this article noticeable for several years, to the serious injury of the industry."

COMMERCIAL HOUSES HANDLING TEXTILE FABRICS.

A French consular report contains the following list of houses engaged in the trade of textile fabrics in Chile, with the observations of the writer on the methods of conducting business in that country:

Name.	Location.	Name.	Location.
Aguiar & Lobrinos	Valparaiso, Santiago, and Concepción.	John Melrose & Co	Santiago.
Bettely & Co	Valparaiso and Santiago.	Gleisner & Co	Concepción.
Miguel Cariloa & Co	Valparaiso.	Francisco Garcia & Co.	Iquique.
Commeuz & Metz	Do.	Prudencia Ochoa & Co.	Do.
Pra & Co	Valparaiso and Santiago.	A. Brenner & Co. 2	Do.
James Goode	Valparaiso.	Alejandro Visscher & Co.	Antofagasta, Arica, and Mollendo.
Ciriaco Sauz	Do.	Dauelsberg, Schubering & Co.	Do.
R. Curphey	Do.	Aramayo Francke & Co.	Do.
Simon & Co	Valparaiso and Santiago.	Virgilio, Barron y Hadida.	Coquimbo.
Gunther, Vehrens & Co.	Do.	Palassié & Lesté y Devès & Co.	Valparaiso.
Felimer & Co	Do.		
Jouve & Gorlier	Do.		
Ernesto Muzac	Do.		
Biant Hermanos	Santiago.		

The large importing houses are in general foreign firms having associates or correspondents in Europe who do the buying. Consequently business with these houses is done through the medium of agents in Paris or in other European places. Thus the manufacturer is not obliged to deal directly with the importing house in Chile.

When business is transacted on the spot through the medium of an agent or representative it is with houses of lesser importance. The manufacturer can make out drafts on these houses and have them accepted; but it must be remarked that the retail houses in Chile are obliged to grant excessively long terms of credit, and consequently are in their turn obliged to ask the manufacturers for correspondingly long delays in payment. For business concluded on the spot it is not

always practicable to make drafts; the buyer usually simply signs renewable "pajarès" (bills payable at sight).

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION OF NITRATES.

According to the latest reports furnished the Bureau by the Chilean Legation in Washington, the statistics of production and exports of nitrates up to the end of October, 1899, are as follows:

Total production from January to June, 656,116 tons; from July to September, 353,738 tons; October, 128,772 tons; total, 1,138,626 tons.

Exports to Europe.—January to June, 482,314 tons; July to September, 268,644 tons; October, 166,545 tons; total, 917,503 tons.

Exports to the United States.—January to June, 62,293 tons; July to September, 52,918 tons; October, 10,454 tons; total, 125,665 tons.

Exports to other countries.—January to June, 13,863 tons; July to September, 5,922 tons; October, 1,091 tons; total, 20,876 tons.

Total exports amounted to 1,064,044 tons. In November there were loaded for Europe 109,091 tons; for the United States, 6,682 tons, and for other destinations, 2,136 tons, making a total of 117,909 tons. The deliveries in Europe from January to June were, in tons, 854,830; from July to September, 164,010, and in October, 32,160, making a total of 1,051,000 tons. The visible supply in Europe on November 1, stocks and afloat, was 568,340 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the "Südamerikanische Rundschau," an attempt is to be made to popularize Chilean wine in Europe. A committee of wine growers has been formed to work in cooperation with English and Scotch firms with the object of first making a market for the product in Great Britain. The Chilean wine is said to resemble in taste and character the Bordeaux and Burgundy grades. The price of the medium grades of table wines is low enough, viz, 18 to 19 shillings per dozen bottles, and the parties who have undertaken the business are possessed of sufficient capital to push it to the utmost. It is stated that the competition will have less effect upon the German than upon the French wines.

A French syndicate has purchased copper mines in the Province of Aconcagua, the price being 1,200,000 francs. Further purchases of copper mines have been made by EUGENE CHOUTEAU and the Sociedad de Minas de Cobre de Catemu has secured the copper works at Melon, in the Department of Quillota, that of Los Arados in Salado, Department of Putaendo, as well as the estate of Nilhue and the mines belonging thereto. A Belgian syndicate, with a capital of 5,000,000 francs, is reported to intend to work the mines in the Maipo territory. New copper mines have been discovered in the Province of Santiago.

Señor Don ERNESTO THOMAS, of Santiago, has been appointed Chilean delegate to the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo, New York, in 1901.

The customs receipts from January to October, 1899, exceeded by 1,587,083 pesos those for the same period of last year.

The Republic of Ecuador sent $15,000 to assist the sufferers by the inundations in Chile.

COLOMBIA.

REPORT ON THE PANAMA CANAL.

The new Panama Canal Company, according to "Las Novedades," of New York, for December 7, last, has received the report of a commission of engineers who had been charged with the inspection of the works on the canal. The report states that the works and material furnished by the former company are in a good state of preservation. The new plans adopted involve the excavating of about 24,700,000 cubic meters of earth, of which 12,200,000 are at the Culebra Mountain. There are at present 3,000 laborers employed, which number it will be necessary to increase during the first year to 5,000, and during the period of greatest activity it will increase to 16,000. During the ten years which the work will take, there will be an average of 16,000 laborers employed. The estimates are as follows: For excavating work, $68,400,000; for constructing locks, $27,400,000; total expenses of all kinds, $102,400,000. The commission considers the Panama route as preferable to that in Nicaragua, as the latter is in a volcanic center subject to earthquakes like those which have several times destroyed the cities of León and Granada.

THE NEW MINISTER TO CHILE.

The principal newspaper at Valparaiso, "El Mercurio," recently published a complimentary editorial with reference to the appointment of Señor CLÍMACO GOMEZ VALDES as Minister of the Colombian Government at Santiago, Chile. The article was due not only to the fact that since 1893 the Colombian legation had been left without an incumbent, for some unexplained motive, but also to the reputation acquired in countries along the South Pacific coast by the newly appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Señor VALDES has already occupied some secondary diplomatic posts, and resided for some years at Santiago as Secretary of the Legation of his country. Since retiring from that position he has been more prominently known as the partner of a great commercial concern at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and as the founder of the "Banco del Ecuador."

COSTA RICA.

NEW PROBATE TAX.

From San José, under date of September 27, 1899, the British Consul sent his Government a translation of Decree No. 4, of September 18, which placed a probate tax for beneficiary purposes on the estates both of foreigners and natives of the Republic.

Article 1 of this decree provides that all estates of persons dying testate or intestate, whether Costa Ricans or foreigners, will be required to pay a charity tax when the net capital exceeds $500, Costa Rican currency. By net capital is understood the value of the estate as per inventory after the funeral expenses and proved debts have been deducted.

By article 2 the tax will be 1 per cent on capitals not exceeding $50,000 and one-half of 1 per cent upon any sum in excess of that amount.

The tax will be double when the heirs are not in the direct line of ascent or descent, nor husband or wife of the testator. The tax will be paid at the capital of the Province or county where the testator last resided, without regard to the situation of the estate.

Article 5 enacts that the tax must be paid within six months, counting from the date of the testator's death. Those who do not pay the tax within that time will be subject to a fine of 2 per cent a month on the amount of the tax for the time overdue.

This law repeals and abrogates all former laws establishing forced legacies for beneficiary purposes, and comes into force on the date of its publication—September 18, 1899.

The decree also provided that the estates which up to the date of the new decree had not paid the tax established by previous laws should have three months in which to pay in accordance with the tariffs and subject to the penalties fixed by such laws. Nevertheless, should this time pass without payment being made, they will become subject to the fine of 2 per cent a month upon the amount of the tax established by the present law.

CLEARANCES OF MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT AT PORT LIMON.

In the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1899, reference was made to the enactment of a law for the clearance from the custom-house in Limon of merchandise in transit for the Provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia. The Presidential decree containing regulations for such clearances is as follows:

"ARTICLE 1. The petitions presented to the administrator of the Custom-House in Limon for the clearance of merchandise referred to

by said law must state the destination of such merchandise, in addition to other details required by the law.

"ART. 2. The consignee or owner of said merchandise must, within three days after the clearance of merchandise, present to the administrator of said Custom-House the original bill of lading issued by the railway company, specifying that the merchandise has been received by it for transportation to destination mentioned on the application for clearance. The bill of lading must specify marks, numbers, gross weight, and general contents of the packages.

"ART. 3. If the bill of lading issued by the railway company is not delivered in the specified time, the custom-house officers will charge tariff duties at the same rate as if the merchandise were for consumption in the Province of Limon, in accordance with decree of June 16, 1899.

"ART. 4. If the contents marked on the bill of lading do not exactly agree with those of the petition, the penalty as per previous article will be applied on all items in the petition not mentioned on the bill of lading, and on those differently specified.

"ART. 5. To permit the clearance of merchandise referred to in this decree, it is necessary that the amount deposited with the Treasury as per ordinance of January 14, 1899, should not only be enough to cover the amount of duties on said merchandise, but the 5 per cent extra, established by the law of July 16, 1899.

"ART. 6. A register book will be kept in the custom-house, in which will be recorded all details of petitions. On the margin of each entry will be noted the number of the bill of lading, the date, and the name of railway company's employee who signed it."

TAX ON RAILWAY TICKETS.

According to the report of the British Consul at San José, a Presidential decree has been issued establishing a tax on all tickets issued by any railway company.

This tax of 5 cents each on all passenger tickets up to the value of $2, and 10 cents each on all such tickets above $2 in value, was to have come into force on October 15, 1899.

MACHINERY WANTED.

The import firm of SANTIAGO FERNÁNDEZ, at San José de Costa Rica, Central America, is desirous of prices on machinery for a complete plant to manufacture starch from yucca, corn, and rice.

ECUADOR.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT GUAYAQUIL.

According to a news cablegram, on November 27, 1899, the city of Guayaquil was visited by a great conflagration, which destroyed property to the value of more than 1,500,000 sucres. Among the buildings destroyed were the theater block, San José Church, the Customs-House with all its contents, the College of San Vicente, together with the Astronomical Observatory, Museum of Natural History, Bureau of Physics and Chemistry, a valuable library, a printing establishment, and some private houses. The fire was also attended by loss of life and injury to firemen.

GUATEMALA.

INCREASED CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Writing from Guatemala on November 29, 1899, Vice-Consul JOHN JAMES states that on October 20 a decree was issued by the President of the Republic imposing an export duty on the following articles: Bananas, 10 cents; cleaned coffee, per 100 pounds, $1; rubber, gross weight, per 100 pounds, $10; hides, each, 50 cents; deer and sheep skins, per 100 pounds, gross weight, $3. From other sources it is reported that as a consequence of the banana tax the planters have, to a considerable extent, stopped cutting and shipping the fruit. Several United States steamers have been compelled, therefore, to return to their home ports with only partial cargoes. It is thought that the imposition of this duty will be only temporary.

FOREIGN LOAN.

According to the statement of the Guatemalan Consul at Hamburg, Germany, the Republic has been successful in contracting a foreign loan of $15,000,000.

HAITI.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received the general report of the different Cabinet Officers of Haiti on the situation of the Republic for 1899. The report is prefaced by a message from the President to Congress in which he deplores the financial situation, which has almost paralyzed the different branches of the public service, however,

he is hopeful that the different financial propositions now under consideration will soon bring an end to the present grave condition of affairs. He expresses his gratification on the fact that the political situation at home and abroad is all that could be desired, and that the country is only awaiting the solution of the financial crisis to take the place which nature designed it to occupy among the civilized nations of the world.

The Secretary of State, Mr. B. ST. CROIX, in his report on Foreign Relations, dwells upon the cordial relations existing between the Republic and the different foreign powers, especially with France, which recently, with great solemnity, conferred upon the President of the Republic and its Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, respectively, the high dignity of commander and officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

The Secretary reviews at length the case of the United States citizen, Mr. JOHN D. METZGER, who is reported to have refused to submit to the regulations governing the employment of foreign workmen. This case, which has been under discussion for a considerable time, has at last been submitted to arbitration, and the Government hopes to be able to soon close the incident, thus enabling the two countries to cultivate sentiments of sincere friendship, in which they are so ably seconded by the American Minister, Mr. W. F. POWELL, and the Haitian Minister, Mr. J. N. LÉGER, at Washington.

The important question of the frontier limits with the Dominican Republic promises soon to be settled satisfactorily, as the interview between the Presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which took place at Môle Saint Nicholas the 28th of May, happily ended in a convention tending to regulate the question of the delimitation of the frontiers to the general satisfaction of the parties interested.

The report of the Minister of the Treasury shows the grave state of the finances of Haiti.

The revenues from the imports for the first quarter of 1897–98 only reached 1,104,452.48 gourdes. The duties collected during the corresponding quarter of the fiscal year 1898–99 amounted to 759,489.92 gourdes, a decrease of 344,962.56 gourdes.

Regarding the receipts from exports, a comparison of the amounts collected in gold during the first two quarters for the years 1897–99 shows an increase of 67,337.87 gourdes American gold.

During the first quarter this year the following loans (Haitian gold currency) were contracted:

October 17, 1898, $200,000; October 31, 1898, $314,769; December 16, 1898, $600,000; February 3, 1899, $125,000; February 21, 1899, $300,000, and March 8, 1899, $65,000.

Three-fourths of the import duties are to be applied to the payment of the loan of December 16. The other loans, the total of which has been converted into American gold, are covered by the gold receipts and will, in all probability, be liquidated within a year or eighteen months.

The Government is bending every effort toward a solution of the financial question, and to this end the President has delegated the Chief of the Treasury to go to Paris to discuss different financial propositions which have been submitted to the French Government.

One great cause of the distressed commercial situation is found in the defective monetary system.

In view of the constant decrease in the price of coffee, due, not as was first generally supposed, to speculation, but to overproduction, the advisability of calling a meeting of the coffee-producing countries to consider the question of decreasing the production is under consideration. Whatever may be the result of this conference, the remedy proposed can only take effect at some distant time.

Cocoa, which still obtains very remunerative prices, might have compensated in a certain measure for the fall in the price of coffee had the cultivation of this product been more advanced. Last year the crop yielded 4,032,736 pounds, almost double the crop for 1897.

The product which has suffered the most from competition is logwood. It depreciates from day to day, and aniline, whose use in the dyeing industry is becoming more general, threatens to force it entirely out of the market. In less than five years the quantity exported has fallen from 142,015,972 pounds to 64,473,588 pounds.

The imports are distributed as follows, in paper gourdes:

United States	2,633,191.91
France	490,509.39
England	325,441.73
Germany	272,906.84
Other countries	221,735.87

The exports to the United States alone show a decrease of 755,871 gourdes (paper), and of 856,796.95 gourdes in the imports compared with the figures for the year 1897. This meant a loss in shipping of 35,704 tons.

In spite of the gravity of the situation, for which no immediate relief is promised, the Minister urges the people not to become discouraged but to bend their efforts toward agriculture, thus increasing the number of products of the country and bring about a revival in trade.

The most important of the public works is the building of the first railroad from Cape Haitian to the Grande Rivièr du Nord. For over twenty years this important question has occupied the minds of the people, and now its realization is promised. Many local works of importance and utility are being undertaken or agitated, such as the development of the mines, building and reparing of docks, bridges, breakwaters, etc.

COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT IN 1898.

According to an English Consular Report, the financial situation of the country has been extremely bad on account of the decrease in the

price of coffee in the European and American markets. The export duty on coffee of $3.87 per 100 pounds is considered almost prohibitive. This duty can not be modified, forming, as it does, the guarantee for several interior debts. The owners of small coffee plantations are thinking of abandoning the cultivation of coffee and replacing the same by other plants—bananas, yams, etc. The Government has tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a loan abroad. It has increased the import duties 25 per cent in order to take up, with the revenue derived from this source, the paper money now in circulation. A French establishment, La Banque Nationale d'Haiti, has offered to regulate the financial situation brought about by the very high rate of exchange.

The exports have consisted of coffee, logwood, cocoa, cotton, mahogany, honey, wax, etc. The low price of coffee in Europe and America has caused a company to attempt the cultivation of tobacco. The machinery for the preparation of coffee and for the sugar-cane factories come from England, and is exempt from all duty. The empty bags for the export of the products of the country come from France and Holland. The natives are now cultivating rice, which was formerly imported from Rangoon and Patria via Hamburg and Antwerp.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

Writing from Port au Prince, under date of November 17, 1899, Hon. W. F. POWELL, United States Minister to Haiti, informs the Department of State at Washington that the Cameron Steamship Company has instituted a weekly service between New York and Haitian ports. The new vessels are rated at 14 knots per hour.

HONDURAS.

PRODUCTION OF BANANAS.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to Señor DON SERVIO TULIO ROMERO, of Omoa, Honduras, for a circular issued by the Agrarian Guild of that district, on November 25, 1899. This district, lying between the banks of the Tulián River and the Motagua Bar, is, par excellence, the home of the banana. Its fruit trade with New Orleans is daily increasing, the circular stating that vessels find good anchorage in calm waters at the bar, and that the fruit may be cut on the very day it is ordered and loaded without delay. The Guild contends that the position of this part of the northern coast of Honduras is so advantageous that its banana plantations, despite the strong winds which at times blow, do not suffer as much as those in other parts, such as Ceibea, Choloma, San Pedro Sula, etc. The price paid per bunch for bananas during the past season has been 5½ reals (about 24 cents), under a contract with Mr. W. E. ALGER, of Puerto Cortéz, which contract will ex-

pire on the last of this month. Upon the expiration of this contract, the circular states, other gentlemen will enter into competition, which, it is expected, will raise the price of the fruit for the harvesters. From January of this year up to November a little more than 200,000 bunches of bananas have been exported from Omoa. The Guild congratulates itself upon the fact that a telegraph line will soon unite Motagua to their port, and thence with all the world.

MEXICO.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CHINA.

For some time past the Ambassador of the United Mexican States at Washington and the Minister of the Chinese Empire, Mr. WU TING-FANG, have been engaged in the negotiation of a treaty of amity and commerce, which will be concluded and signed in a few days. This convention has the double importance of being the first that was ever negotiated between the two countries and that its articles assure great advantages to the two contracting parties. By the terms of the treaty Mexico will enjoy the benefits of the "most-favored-nation" clause, and her products will hereafter have access to the Chinese market with duties no higher than those charged any other nation. She also obtains extraterritorial rights in the Empire. Another by no means slight advantage is the entry of Mexican trade into Chinese ports open to universal commerce through treaty, into which ports Mexico has heretofore entered only by sufferance, in the absence of direct relations between the two Governments. China, on the other hand, secures rights in Mexican territory. There are quite a number of Chinese subjects in Mexico who heretofore have lacked the protection vouchsafed by treaty and guaranteed to Consuls and diplomatic representatives. It also reciprocally enjoys the privilege of the "most favored nation." The treaty once signed, each nation will name Ministers and Consuls in the other. The treaty is in the English language, which has caused considerable surprise on the part of several prominent Mexican newspapers, who forget that the diplomatic language of China is the English, and not the French.

HISTORY OF THE VERA CRUZ RAILWAY.

"El Economista Mexicana" for November 4, 1899, contains a history of the Mexican Railroad, commonly known as the Vera Cruz Railway. This was the first railway line built in Mexico, and connects the principal seaport of Vera Cruz with the capital of the country. The first concession for this road was granted on August 22, 1837, to Don FRANCISCO ARRILLAGA, who, having failed to construct the line within the stipulated time, forfeited his concession. On March 31, 1842,

President SANTA ANA issued a decree ordering the construction of a railroad from the port of Vera Cruz to the San Juan River, and established an additional duty of 2 per cent upon imports through the said port, in order to meet the expenses of construction. This was intrusted to Don JOSÉ FAURE, under the supervision of Don ANTONIO DE GARAY, then Minister of the Treasury. Señor FAURE having died while engaged in an inspection of the work, the latter was continued by others as far as Molino, a little more than 8 miles from Vera Cruz, and in 1851 it reached San Juan, the total length of line being about 16½ miles. This section of the line was opened to the public service on September 16, 1850, with animal traction. It was, in fact, only a tramway, but it was later absorbed by the Vera Cruz and Mexican Railway.

This was the first occasion upon which the independence of Mexico was celebrated by the inauguration of a railroad. The second concession for a railroad direct from Vera Cruz to Puebla and Mexico was granted on October 13, 1853, by President SANTA ANA to Mr. JOHN LAURIE RICHARDS, an Englishman, who had resided in the country for a long time. Mr. RICHARDS having failed to organize a company in London within the stipulated time, the forfeiture of the concession was declared by decree of August 2, 1855. On this same date the brothers MOSSO obtained the exclusive right to build a railroad from San Juan, in Vera Cruz, to Acapulco, touching en route at Puebla and Mexico, which was in reality the continuation of the line from Vera Cruz to San Juan, and at the same time the second concession was granted for an interoceanic railroad uniting the Atlantic and the Pacific, the first having been made to Señor DE GARAY on March 1, 1842, for a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to connect the said oceans.

On October 29, 1856, the brothers MOSSO assigned their concessions to Don ANTONIO ESCANDÓN, a prominent capitalist of the City of Mexico, associated with leading English capitalists, who at once began the work of organization. On August 2, 1857, President COMONFORT created a fund of 8,000,000 pesos to be represented by a special issue of bonds, payable within fifty years, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. On August 31, 1857, President COMONFORT issued a decree granting a direct concession to Don ANTONIO ESCANDÓN for the construction and operation of a road from Vera Cruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, to Acapulco or any other port he might select on the Pacific, and consolidating this concession with that granted the MOSSO brothers in 1855 and assigned to Señor ESCANDÓN in 1856. The line was to be that which the surveys of the engineers should prove to be the most advisable, touching all the great cities, such as Puebla, Querétaro, and Guadalajara, and traversing the most important agricultural and mining lands. The greatest obligation assumed by Señor ESCANDÓN was to have ready within the term of six years at least

some 82 miles for operation, of which 69 miles were to run from Vera Cruz toward the capital and the other 13 miles from the latter city toward the port. A failure to carry out this obligation incurred a fine of $150,000, which Señor ESCANDÓN had to guarantee within fifteen days, reckoned from the date of the concession.

The construction works from Mexico to Guadalupe were under the direction of Maj. ROBERT B. GORSUCH, as chief engineer on the part of Señor ESCANDÓN, who bought from the Government the line from Vera Cruz to San Juan (about 16½ miles) for the sum of $750,000. The survey of the line from Vera Cruz toward the capital also began in the year 1857, under the direction of Colonel TALCOTT, assisted by the American engineers, Messrs. WIMMER, EVERY, and LYONS. In 1861 BENITO JUÁREZ granted Señor ESCANDÓN a ratification of his contract with some modifications. The new concession was published in a decree of April 5, 1861. One of the modifications was that the concessionary must terminate the line between the cities of Puebla and Mexico without regard to the section constructed from Vera Cruz, and a fund of 8,000,000 pesos was apportioned. The Imperial Government next ensued, and in place of Presidential decrees we have those of an Emperor. Señor ESCANDÓN succeeded in organizing in London a company to take charge of the construction of the road and accept the concession, which company was called the Imperial Mexican Company, and the contract of cession was signed in London on August 19, 1864. The road was then to be called "The Imperial Railway of Mexico." On January 26, 1865, Emperor MAXIMILIAN issued a decree recognizing the ESCANDÓN contracts of 1857 and 1861 and the assignment to the Imperial Mexican Company. On the same date another imperial decree ordered the payment to the company of 15 per cent of the import duties collected.

In 1867 the empire died and the Republic was restored. The latter declared that all concessions made by the empire were null and void. Pursuant to said declaration, the Imperial Mexican Company lost its contract, there being then constructed the line from Vera Cruz to Paso de Macho, a length of 47 miles, and from Mexico to Apizico, 87 miles. On November 27, 1867, President JUAREZ issued a decree absolving the company from the fine it had incurred and returning its concessions of 1857 and 1861, with certain modifications. Certain articles of this decree were modified by the enactment of the Federal Congress of November 11, 1868, and both decrees were then recognized and constituted the new concession to the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad, under which it to-day exists with very slight changes. By the act of Congress the Government was to pay the company the sum of $560,000 per annum for twenty years as a subvention.

On April 10, 1869, Mr. WILLIAM BARRON, the then representative of the London company, delivered to the Department of Promotion the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the new organization, which

had adopted the name of the Mexican Railway Company, Limited, which is still preserved. SMITH, KNIGHT & Co., of London, were given the contract for the construction of the whole line and the repair of those sections already built which needed it, for the sum of £5,239,120. About September, 1869, the work began actively and was prosecuted with vigor, despite the many obstacles which beset it due to the disturbed condition of the country; and on September 16, 1869, the line from Mexico to Puebla, a distance of 116 miles, was formally inaugurated. In 1870 the principal section from Vera Cruz to Atoyac, 53 miles in length, was open to public service. December, 1871, saw the 18 miles between this point and Córdoba finished. On September 16, 1872, 11 more miles had been completed, bringing the line to Orizaba, making a total distance from Vera Cruz of 82 miles. In December, 1872, the line reached Apizaco and connected there with the line from Mexico, making a total of 263 miles. Including the branch from Apizaco to Puebla, approximately, 29 miles long, the total length of the line was 292 miles. The formal and official inauguration of these 292 miles took place on January 1, 1873, when President LERDO DE TEJADA made the first trip on a railroad.

The first concession having been granted in 1837, and the line having been concluded and inaugurated in 1873, shows that thirty-seven years was the time necessary to place the capital of the Republic in communication with its principal seaport. During this period of time the country was successively governed by forty Presidents, four Regents, and one Emperor. The cost of the road is stated to have been $42,000,000, including the amount paid by the Government as a subsidy. On May 1, 1899, the company secured a concession without subvention to run a branch line from Ometusco Station to Pachuca, 28 miles distant. The total length of the main line and branches now operated by the company is 320 miles. The last financial statistics relating to the Mexican Railway Company, published by the Government, make the following showing:

Floating debt	$27,830,300
Stock issued	29,103,900
Bonds issued	10,000,000
Total capital in stocks and bonds	39,103,900
Subvention paid by the Government to the company in cash	14,000,000

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula, Mississippi, reports that during the month of November the only exports to his country were 384,168 superficial feet of pitch-pine lumber, valued at $3,841.68. There were no imports.

The Consul of Mexico at Nogales, Arizona, reports that the exports to the State of Sonora during the month of October through the custom-house of Nogales, Mexico, amounted in value to $132,336, of which $102,658 were from the United States. The amount of duties

collected was $58,311.17. The imports from Mexico to the United States amounted to $336,077.

The Consul-General of Mexico at San Francisco, California, writes that the imports from Mexico to the United States through the San Francisco custom-house for the month of October were as follows: Merchandise, $25,596; metals, $216,301; total, $241,897. During the same period there were exported United States articles to the value of $198,013 and foreign merchandise to the value of $2,896; also Mexican pesos sent to Hongkong to the value of $19,816, making a total of $220,725.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, says that the exports to Mexico through his district during the month of October last were 4,528 packages, valued at $8,466.50. The imports into the United States were valued at $10,328.

The Consulate-General of Mexico in New York reports that in the month of October last the imports from Mexico were as follows: Henequén, 2,615 bales; coffee, 8,062 bags; hides, 1,688 bundles; hides, loose, 3,018; ixtle fiber, 2,646 packages; goatskins, 575 bundles; deerskins, 274 bundles; rubber, 153 bales; tobacco, leaf, 154 bales; cigars, 176 boxes; broom root, 1,145 bales; chicle gum, 1,324 bales; fustete dyewood, 4,126 logs; hair, 25 bales; lead, 84,631 bars; metals, 163 boxes; ore, 21,612 packages; sarsaparilla, 298 bales; vanilla, 19 boxes; alligator skins, 142; heron plumes, 1 box; bones, 815 packages; honey, 266 barrels; cedar, 1,589 logs; mahogany, 1,838 logs; jalap, 4 sacks; copper, 19,859 bars.

The entrances of vessels from Mexican ports into the port of New York during the same month were as follows: Twenty-six steamships, with a total cargo of 159,319 packages. The clearances from New York to Mexican ports were 32 steamships, carrying 112,392 packages.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILROAD IN SONORA.

The Government of Mexico has entered into a contract with Mr. Edward Van Buren Hoes for the construction of a railroad in Sonora. The contract is drawn on the lines of the new railroad law of April 29, 1899, and under its terms the concessionary of the company or companies he may organize may construct and operate the road for a period of ninety-nine years, from the port of Guaymas to the Villa de San Marcial. Work is to be commenced on the line within twelve months. The gauge is to be 1 meter and 44 centimeters between rails. Steam or electrical traction is to be used. The principal office of the company is to be in the city of Guaymas. The passenger fares per kilometer are to be as follows: First class, 3 cents; second class, 2 cents; third class, 1½ cents. The freight tariffs per kilometer per ton are to be: First class, 15 cents; second class, 12 cents; third class, 10 cents; fourth class, 8 cents; fifth class, 7 cents; sixth class, 6 cents. The company is to deposit 12,000 pesos in the general treasury of the Federa-

tion, in bonds of the consolidated national debt, as a guaranty for the faithful performance of the obligations assumed by the contract.

NEW FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION.

A new corporation has recently been formed in the City of Mexico under the style and title of the "Compañía Banquera Anglo-Mexicana, S. A.," with a capital of $1,000,000, to engage in financial operations. The purpose of the new corporation is to look over the Mexican business field from an agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial standpoint, and report the results to a London syndicate, which is to work in unison with the company; to secure contracts, concessions, and franchises of all kinds, either from the General Government, State, or municipal governments, for itself or for its clients; to organize new businesses or reorganize existing concerns; to purchase and sell all kinds of Mexican shares, bonds, or securities; to enter into contracts for the sale or purchase of agricultural, industrial, and mineral properties; to make loans and discounts for itself or for others; to act as experts in all commercial and legal matters affecting property; to manage the business of companies, commercial associations, or private individuals; to act as executors or as administrators and trustees; to act as agents of foreign companies or individuals in securing the registration of trade-marks, patents, or mortgages; in a word, to undertake all the business of a commission banking house.

THE MEXICO, CUERNAVACA AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The concession to the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway, dated December 31, 1895, and modified on March 18, 1897, has been recently again modified in two or three of its articles. According to the first article of the original concession, the principal route was to run from the city of Mexico to Cuernavaca, and then, following the Las Balsas River, to touch at Organal, or some other convenient point, to meet the line of the Inguarán Railway Company, and follow this line to the port of Zihuantanjo, and thence, should it suit the company, to go to Acapulco, with the further obligation to construct a branch line from the most convenient point on the main artery to Chilpancingo. The modification which has been made is to the effect that if within the term of five years the railroad from Organal to Zihuantanjo, to which the concession granted the Inguarán Railroad, of September 14, 1898, refers, should not be constructed, the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway is bound to construct the said line. In case the former company should build the railroad mentioned, the latter company shall have the right to construct a line between the points mentioned, should it suit their interests. In view of the greater length that the new line will have along the Balsas River to Organal, with the branch to Chilpancingo, the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway, instead of 60

kilometers, will have to deliver to the Government 100 kilometers every two years. The construction of the Chilpancingo branch is to commence six months after the initiation of the work on the main line, the company being bound to construct 1 kilometer on the branch for every section of 4 kilometers in length built on the line from the Balsas River to Organal, in the understanding that by June 30, 1906, the main and branch lines shall be completed.

FUTURE OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

A recent number of "El Tráfico," of Guaymas, Sonora, contains an article relating to the future of that State when the United States shall have definitely annexed the Philippine Archipelago. The article is to the effect that for Sonora, especially for Guaymas, the annexation of the Philippines to the United States will work an inestimable benefit; for it is logical to deduct that as the commercial development achieved by the State of California enhances that obtained by the Pacific coast of Mexico will be proportionately greater; for while the Mexican Central States maintain an active trade with Kansas City and St. Louis, that of Sonora and Sinaloa is exclusively with San Francisco, and the commercial expansion of this metropolis will increase the volume of their transactions. The article adds: "Neither ought we to fear the competition of the Philippines, for the products of the Orient differ in nature from our own. From Manila there will be imported to San Francisco textile fibers, tobacco, and sugar, articles which our State does not produce in sufficient quantity for export. Hence the products of Sonora will continue firm in the markets of California, and the probabilities are that they will be more in demand. In the far-off Archipelago there are no beef cattle, and at present the beef consumed in Manila is sent from Australia in refrigerators. A San Francisco newspaper, commenting upon this food problem, said the other day that it would be more feasible and economical to ship cattle at Guaymas or Acapulco for the Philippines, since the transports now crossing the Pacific to the Orient can easily and comfortably carry a thousand head of cattle. The military authorities in San Francisco have sent a suggestion to Washington to this effect, requesting that the experiment be made.

"The scene of great commercial activity is passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and Sonora, advantageously situated in a zone bathed by the latter ocean, should redouble her energies so as to become an eminently productive State—the first of the Mexican States on the Pacific coast. Horned cattle and sheep are destined to figure as a most essential factor in this movement, for beef and mutton, with the increase of the population and the requirements of modern life will become articles most in demand. The prices of wool have gone up so much that some factories in the United States have been closed for want of the raw material. So that no State offers greater advantages than ours for the development of the live-stock industry, for we have

more than enough territory to establish enormous breeding farms and to supply the Pacific coast of the United States with beef and wool. When Spain possessed the Philippines the trade of the Archipelago was wholly in the hands of Spaniards, for the Madrid Government imposed prohibitive tariffs on all products that were not Iberian, closing the doors of the islands to foreign trade. But now it is different as the customs duties are equal and impartial, a reform which will permit us to expand our sphere of commercial action."

MEXICAN EXPLOITATION COMPANY.

One of the new enterprises started by United States capital in Mexico is that of the Monterey Mexican Exploitation Company. This company originated after a close study of the situation in regard to investments in that Republic. Briefly, the question was this: Mexico, by its firmly established government, is now demanding development; development offers good chances for investment; if only for geographical reasons, this investment is coming largely from the United States; investigation of investment propositions in Mexico, be they commercial, engineering, or legal, made by northern experts is precarious, on account of the difference in language, customs, economic conditions, and laws, and has led and will lead to serious blunders. The idea evolved from this situation was that there is a field, and an increasing field, for responsible and competent investigation of such question by men on the ground, thoroughly conversant with the language, the laws, and the situation.

This company was therefore incorporated last February, under the laws of the State of New Jersey, to do a general investment and brokerage business in municipal improvements, mines, irrigation, waterworks, and industrial propositions throughout the Republic. It is prepared to make technical, business, and financial reports. It has as its attorney Mr. WILLIAM A. MCLAREN, of Monterey (author of an article for the MONTHLY BULLETIN for January, 1899, pp. 1180–82, on the "Commercial Possibilities of Northern Mexico"), whose specialty of Mexican law enables the company to satisfy itself in passing upon the all-essential question in Mexico of titles connected with the various enterprises under examination, either for itself or for its clientele. The officers of the company are: Mr. F. W. BLEES, of Macon, Missouri, President; Mr. R. O. BABBITT, of Jersey City, New Jersey, Vice-President, and Mr. H. E. TUTTLE, of Monterey, Secretary and Treasurer.

THE CHICLE TREE AND ITS FRUIT.

The base of most of the chewing gums manufactured in the United States is the "gum chicle" produced in Mexico. This tree (*Achras sapota*) is esteemed in some countries for the fruit it bears. The Royal Botanical Gardens of Ceylon, in a circular issued in June, 1899, describes it as follows: "A small symmetrical tree with shining dark-green leaves,

and a native of tropical America. The fruit is globular, with tender dark-brown rind. When at its maturity it is considered one of the most luscious of tropical fruits, the pulp being sweet and refreshing and somewhat of the consistency of a pear. In India (where it has been transplanted) it is often sold under the name of 'mangoesteen.' The season of fruit bearing is from November to February. It thrives in the low country and up to the height of 1,000 feet, in deep and well-drained soil. It is propagated from the seed and by layering. This fruit is also known as the 'sapodilla plum' and 'naseberry.'"

TARIFF CHANGES.

According to the report of the British Foreign Office, the following are new classifications of goods for duty under the Mexican customs tariff:

Waste pieces or scraps of cork, free; curtains formed of strings of beads made out of paste of rice (even when formed partly of bamboo and wood), per legal kilo, 40 centavos; waste pieces or scraps of copper, brass, bronze, or white metal, per gross kilo, 10 centavos; vitrified wool or cotton, per gross kilo, 3 centavos; seed of india-rubber plant, free.

PAVING OF MEXICO CITY.—AWARDING OF IMPORTANT CONTRACT.

The Municipal Council of the City of Mexico has just published a notice announcing that the paving of all the streets of the city is to be awarded by contract. After the completion of this work the contractor must pledge himself to maintain the paving in good condition during a period of ten years. The tenders, which must be presented under seal, are to be addressed to the Secretary of the Municipality within the four months following the publication of the notice dated October 14, 1899.

The contractor to whom the award is made must deposit a guaranty under one of the following forms:

(1) One hundred thousand dollars, in money, at the National Bank;

(2) Or 100,000 dollars, in bonds on the consolidated debt at the National Bank;

(3) Or 100,000 dollars payable to the order of the Municipal Council;

(4) Or give a mortgage on any piece of property representing a value of $100,000.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The port of Tampico, on the Gulf of Mexico, is steadily growing in importance, its custom-house receipts up to the end of November having been larger by a considerable sum than those of the great port of Vera Cruz. The Panuco River, which flows by it, waters one of the most valuable sections of the territory of the Republic, where agriculture and stock raising offer inducements not equaled elsewhere in the country.

The business of the navigation companies on this river is constantly increasing, and it is stated that a French company is investing $1,000,000 in the sugar industry on the river. Recently a company organized, about a year ago, in Chicago, Illinois, bought a tract of 8,000 acres of land within 9 miles of Tampico, where it will be engaged in the culture of tropical products of various climes.

The new gold bonds to the amount of $235,000 issued by the city of Saltillo, State of Coahuila, and bearing 6 per cent interest per annum, payable in that city or in New York, have been taken by a St. Louis, Missouri, company. The bonds are now being engraved and will be issued about the time that this number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN is ready for distribution. The purpose of this issue is to provide sewerage and waterworks systems for Saltillo, and for the construction there of a modern and capacious market building and slaughterhouse. It is expected that these new improvements will yield a net revenue of $60,000 per annum, which will more than meet the interest on the bonds and will create a sinking fund for the payment of the principal.

The Southeastern Railroad Company of Yucatán has notified the Department of Communications and Public Works that early in January next the construction works on the railroad from Bahia de la Ascención inland, touching at San Antonio Muyil, Tiosucho, and Ichmul, to unite with the line from Mérida to Peto, will commence. From San Antonio Muyil a branch will run to the city of Valladolid, and from an intermediate point, not yet determined on, another branch will run to Chan Santa Cruz and the banks of Rio Hondo. A representative of the company has already arrived in New York to enter into contract with construction companies, who will take charge of the work, to begin in January next.

At a recent meeting of the Geographical and Statistical Society of the City of Mexico, a member, the engineer, Señor ARMADOR CHIMALPOPOCA, read the report of the commission charged with investigating and reporting on the gigantic project of Señor SARTO, an industrial engineer, relative to the construction of an interoceanic canal by utilizing in part the navigation of the river Grijalva. The commission in its report thought fit to eulogize Señor SARTO for his devotion to great geographical problems and grand conceptions. It did not hesitate to declare that the project of Señor SARTO, in case it could be realized, would constitute one of the most notable works of the kind in the world.

At the New York office of the Chihuahua and Pacific Railway it was stated that another stretch of that line was opened early in December, and that there is now in operation over 80 miles of road. For the last five months the building of this line has been delayed on account of

some engineering difficulties encountered near Lake Castillo. Five viaducts have been constructed there by the Pencoyd Iron Works, and the rest of the route is clear and straight. An order was recently placed in the United States for $40,000 worth of material, and the managers expect that in a few weeks larger orders will be given for equipments for this road.

In the State of Guerrero, according to the latest educational statistics, there are schools of primary instruction as follows: For boys, 14 first-class, 50 second-class, and 200 third-class, with a daily average attendance of 18,000 pupils; for girls, 14 first-class, 50 second-class, and a like number of third-class, with a daily attendance of 7,000 pupils. The school population being 24,000, more or less, and the State having a population of about 400,000, the average attendance at the schools is 6 pupils for each 100 inhabitants. This is a gratifying showing in a very short time, since six years ago the proportion was barely 4 per cent.

During the last week of November the first consignment of an order for 10,000 Mexican cattle for Cuba left the port of New Orleans for Havana. The entire number must reach Cuba prior to January 1, 1900. Messrs. Cox & Kayser, of El Paso, Texas, are reported to have recently closed a deal with ex-Governor Terrazas, of Chihuahua, Mexico, for 25,000 head of stock cattle for various Cuban plantations. A large number of cattle are said to be needed in the provinces of Puerto Principe, Santa Clara, and Havana, Cuba.

The Mexican Industrial Company has been formed in Mexico City for the purpose of developing the steel industry in the Republic of Mexico. A dispatch from the city of Pittsburg states that the company referred to has secured from the National Steel Company of that city several of its managers to take charge of the operation of an extensive plant at Chihuahua. It is said the progress of this plant has been marked, and that it will soon be turning out steel billets and rails of the best quality.

"Modern Mexico" is authority for the statement that the colony of United States citizens in the City of Mexico now numbers between 3,000 and 4,000 people. Most of the members of the colony are connected with the railroads in all manner of positions; many are merchants, importers, commission men, lawyers, doctors, miners, etc. From a business and social standpoint this colony will rank in importance with that of a city of 30,000 inhabitants in the United States.

The new railroad law of April 29, 1899, in so far as the provisions relating to the tariffs is concerned, will go into effect on January 1, 1900. The workings of this new railroad legislation, which is to a considerable extent founded upon similar legislation in the United

States, is awaited with much interest by railroad men throughout Mexico. A synopsis of the railroad law was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for August, page 154.

The Grijalva Land and Coffee Company, of San Antonio, Texas, now has 3,000 acres under cultivation in its ranch near San Juan Bautista. There are 150,000 rubber trees growing and 120,000 more will be planted this year. The management of the Grijalva Company is highly elated over the prospects, and believes that the greatest profits for this venture which they dared hope for at the outset will be realized.

The Ohio Coffee Growing and Trading Company, which was organized in Toledo, Ohio, with a capital of $75,000, three years ago, has now nearly 600 acres under cultivation in the Toledo hacienda, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The improvements include 300,000 coffee trees and 40,000 rubber trees, besides a large acreage in pineapple, vanilla, banana, and other plants.

The tobacco growers of the State of Vera Cruz are complaining because the merchants and speculators trading in this article have formed a syndicate in order to lower its price. This explains why important sales of tobacco are now being made, abroad and in the interior, at prices greatly below any ever before chronicled.

The importance of the mining industry in Mexico may be judged from the fact that 40 per cent of the tonnage of the freight hauled by the Mexican Central Railway is ore. The Aguascalientes smelter now employs 1,500 men, and it is stated that plans are under consideration for increasing this number by the addition of 1,000 more.

"El Nacional," of the City of Mexico, is authority for the statement that the International Railroad Company will extend its line to Mazatlán and the City of Mexico. The latter line will start from the Labor Station toward Nombre de Dios and crossing the boundaries of the States of Zacatecas and Jalisco.

Señor HILARIO CUEVAS, a coffee planter of the State of Oaxaca, is to found a free practical school of agriculture in the neighborhood of Lake Chapala, in the town of San Luis Soyatlán. Señor CUEVAS purposes teaching, gratuitously, the cultivation of coffee and rubber.

Officials of the Mexican Central Railway are at present engaged in looking over the territory which the line from Guadalajara to Manzanillo is to cross, arranging for the purchase of lands and the condemnation of those belonging to parties unwilling to sell.

On January 1, 1900, the Chilean Steamship Company, which has been referred to in recent numbers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, will inaugurate direct service between the several ports of Chile and San Francisco, touching at the principal Pacific ports of Mexico.

The Bulletin of Statistics of the State of Yucatan gives the number of bales of henequén exported from the Port of Progreso in the month of September last as 44,973, weighing 7,456,101 kilos, and valued at $2,430,017.88, Mexican currency.

The municipality of Tampico will award a contract for the construction of complete waterworks, including aqueducts, setting up of pumps, sewers, and paving or macadamizing. Bids will be opened February 15, 1900, by the Mayor.

The Commission to regulate the boundary between Mexico and Guatemala has completed its work. The Minister of Promotion has now named a new commission to perfect the plans for the new boundary line as established.

The indications are that before very long Mexico will find within her own borders all the petroleum necessary to meet the requirements of her industry. Quite a number of petroleum springs have recently been discovered.

The high prices now obtained for quicksilver and tin are stimulating prospectors in their search for and examination of deposits of these minerals in the States of Durango, Zacatecas, and Sonora.

Quite a number of the owners of coffee plantations in the State of Vera Cruz, owing to the low price of coffee, have commenced to put in cotton and tobacco with considerable success.

The new pier at Progreso, Yucatan, 400 meters long, has been approved by the Government and is now receiving cargo. It is proposed to extend it 200 meters in the near future.

It is very probable that the Christmas holidays will be celebrated in the city of Zelaya by the inauguration of the new electric tramway system.

The United States Patent Office, on November 28 last, issued two patents to Señor MANUEL S. CARMONA on two typewriting machines.

NICARAGUA.

THE INTEROCEANIC CANAL.

The remarks of Señor LUIS F. COREA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua, at the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, which were received too late for insertion in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for November, bore the title "Central America will be a Most Important World Market with the

Interoceanic Canal through Nicaraguan Territory," and were as follows:

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: This is the day selected by this Congress for a discussion of the important subject of an interoceanic canal.

"The history of the projected canal through Nicaraguan territory is well known. Much of importance has been written concerning it and reproduced by the daily newspapers of all classes, and therefore I do not wish to weary you by repeating that, in 1550, it was asserted by Galvao and confirmed since and at this present time by eminent engineers, the Nicaragua route is the only feasible one, giving better guarantees and offering more advantages to navigation and commerce than any other. Neither will I dwell upon the interest aroused by this undertaking among the European powers, such as France and Holland, and much more so in the United States of North America on account of its peculiar position on this continent; nor adduce all the arguments and facilities offered by Central America first, and Nicaragua second, in order to attract the foreign capital necessary to carry out this monumental enterprise.

"Every one is more or less acquainted with the numerous liberal concessions which Nicaragua, as a section of Central America and as an independent Republic, has granted since 1826; also with the fact that the companies holding the concessions have failed to complete the work on account of insufficient capital. This convinces us that only a Government, and an interested Government, such as the United States, is capable of completing the work. Before this International Commercial Congress I shall refer only to the direct result of the construction of the canal through Nicaraguan territory—namely, the transformation of Central America into a very important market.

"One of the reasons constantly quoted in favor of the canal through Nicaragua, as far as the United States is concerned, is to cut short the distance to the markets of the Orient and Europe. In all the publications consulted, there has been no mention of the Central American market, and a very brief consideration is given to the markets of South America. The interested parties have ascertained how much the distance will be reduced from New York and New Orleans to San Francisco, Yokohama, Melbourne, Hongkong, Singapore, etc., and how much shorter the route will be from California and the Western States to the countries in Europe. Mention is frequently made of the markets of the Orient, which consume a great portion of what the world's industry produces, and endeavors are made to gain those far-off markets which may later on become good consumers, but the South American countries are almost in every instance overlooked, and yet to-day they are of the first importance. And as to Central America it is entirely neglected and no consideration is taken of what it may become in the future. Nor can this be attributed to the difference of

languages, to which is ascribed the fact that of Canada and Mexico, bordering on the United States, the first imports 59 per cent of what she consumes, while the latter imports only 49 per cent, for Europe and the United States are very eager to send the products of their industries to far-off places where European languages are even less understood. If the topography and other exceptional conditions of Central America in general, and Nicaragua in particular, are analyzed, the conclusion is inevitable that that part of the world will become one of the most important commercial centers.

"The beginning of the canal will be from the east, cutting through the Nicaragua country in the part richest in gold, silver, precious metals, and stones; as, for example, opals. To the north side of the eastern end of this route there are to-day resident Americans and Englishmen who are proprietors of very rich gold mines. Various companies have been formed for exploitation, and are receiving good profits, taking into consideration the difficulties met in securing the necessary machinery.

"If we follow the line of the canal, which keeps the course of the River San Juan to the great lake of Nicaragua, we find forests of valuable wood, suitable for construction, and not yet touched by anyone. Colossal trees and vegetation of all kinds in great abundance reveal also the fertility of the soil.

"Coming to the lake, we find that this immense body of water contains an abundance of fish of all kinds, and that, besides having more than sufficient depth for ships of the greatest draught, it possesses natural harbors along the greater part of its coast in which merchant vessels could safely anchor and discharge their cargoes, as well as load products from the regions of the interior. In all the country about the lake, and principally in the north and east, is to be found soil suitable for the cultivation of coffee, cacao, vanilla, sugar cane, all kinds of cereals, and an immense variety of tropical fruits. There are also very good sections for cattle raising, as may be seen from the vast ranches with their hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle.

"A large proportion of this land belong to the national domain, and the Government has enacted liberal laws which facilitate its acquisition by honest laboring people who are disposed to emigrate there and become good citizens. There are also fertile sections, easy of access, on the other side of the lake in the country which will be cut through to unite the lake with the Pacific.

"Nicaragua has to-day about 650,000 inhabitants on a territory of from 45,000 to 46,000 square miles; enough to accommodate easily as many millions of people as the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware put together now contain. Undoubtedly, as soon as cheap transportation is offered to assist emigration, Nicaragua will obtain such a population.

"If Nicaragua alone is capable of providing for so many millions,

Honduras and Guatemala on the north with more or less the same area and fertility, Salvador and Costa Rica on the south, although smaller in extent, but naturally rich and containing an industrious people, would also be able to support a large population and receive the benefits to be derived from the new maritime route. This would be especially true of Costa Rica, which lies adjacent to the Canal for several miles.

"The railways, already constructed for a considerable number of miles in the section referred to, will unite them as soon as the facilities are obtained to ship their products from the various ports of the great lake and convey them rapidly to the most distant countries.

"Mail, telegraph, and telephone communications, which are good even now, will be still further improved when they are employed in the service of a more active and productive trade.

"The United States of North America, as well as Chile and the Argentine Republic in the south, after the manner of the industrial countries of Europe—England, Germany, and France—are not only trying to hold the markets which thay have succeeded in obtaining, but are also trying to gain the sympathies of those which may be possessed in the future. To-day Europe has more than enough to export, but industries are increasing everywhere, and in a few years there will not be sent to the United States many of those articles now imported, as they will be manufactured within the country. The United States now has a large home market, and does not feel so greatly the need of exportation, but at the rate it is advancing the time will arrive when there will be an enormous surplus, and then the country will be forced to find other markets. The nearest will be best.

"Central America, prepared as she is, and with the degree of culture which she enjoys, will at the first sign of work upon the Nicaragua Canal receive an immensely increased immigration from all parts of the world, which immigration will form a powerful element of consumption, making all that section one of the markets most sought after in the world; a market in which the products of the most advanced industries of the United States and Europe could be sold, and from which could be received in exchange gold, silver, and other precious metals in large quantities; woods of a superior quality, of which the world to-day derives no benefit, on account of the difficulties and great cost of transportation; as well as of the various products of the rich soil, and of even those native industries which are so much appreciated by foreigners, and which, besides revealing the advancement of the aborigines, offer articles of great utility, which could not be manufactured elsewhere at such low prices.

"Gentlemen, the Nicaragua Canal, besides being in itself a great business enterprise, and saving to the world many millions of dollars, will bind the existing centers of commerce closer and immensely develop the Central American markets. With these new elements and

vast accumulations of wealth there will be inaugurated another golden era of astonishing enterprises and marvelous commercial developments."

A GEOGRAPHY OF NICARAGUA.

The Minister of Public Instruction recently submitted for examination to Señor M. C. MATUS, a distinguished Nicaraguan litterateur and jurist, the manuscript of a new work by Dr. BELISARIO PORRAS, entitled "Geografía de Nicaragua." Señor MATUS, in reporting upon the results of his examination, states that he has been much gratified at having found the work so interesting and instructive. He says that, after a general description of the Republic, covering the physical, political, and administrative features, the book contains an exhaustive description of each of the departments into which the country is divided, based upon the most accurate and recent data. The author has not contented himself with a conscientious study of everything that has been written upon Nicaragua up to the present time, but has taken particular interest in personally acquiring a knowledge of all the elements which go to make up the Commonwealth. The only fault, if such it be, that the reviewer can discover in the effort of Dr. PORRAS is its length, and he ingenuously adds that this is one of its best recommendations, the length not being due to diffuseness in descriptions and prolixity in language, but to the great accumulation of statistical treasure. The work is intended for use in the institutions of secondary instruction, and, according to Señor MATUS, meets every conceivable requirement. This gentleman cites the fact that three years ago the Ministry of Public Instruction ordered a large map of the Republic to be printed in the United States, and that it has been distributed therein within the last year. He adds that the want of just such a book as that of Dr. PORRAS has long been felt, and urges that it be given to the press at once.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS.

A dispatch from Managua states that President ZELAYA has appointed Señor JOAQUIN SANSON, Consul-General at New Orleans; also that Gen. FRANCISCO GUERRIRO, of Managua, is to assume the office at Bluefields of Inspector-General and Governor of the Atlantic coast district of Nicaragua, vice Señor BONI, resigned.

PARAGUAY.

CATTLE RAISING ON THE RIVER PLATE.

An article in "La Prensa de Asunción," written by Dr. ALONZO CRIADO, Consul-General of Paraguay at Montevideo, points out the probable profit which will accrue to the meat-packing companies in Paraguay, established by Mr. PEDRO RISSO in Colonia-Risso on the

Alto-Paraguay River. It is calculated that 600 steers will be slaughtered daily. Dr. CRIADO states that the commercial prosperity of the States of the River Plate sprang from their animal industry, the products being exported in the form of live stock and preserved meat products to Brazil and Europe. The following statement prepared by the Consul-General shows the number of steers slaughtered for packing purposes in Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, and Rio Grande:

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Uruguay	723,400	683,300	665,300	821,600
Argentina	449,400	476,200	337,500	310,700
Rio Grande	215,000	320,000	340,000	270,000
Total	1,387,800	1,479,500	1,342,800	1,402,300

Uruguay slaughtered 290,000 head of cattle more than the Argentine Republic and Rio Grande together. Notwithstanding the large immigration into Brazil and the Argentine Republic, the increase in the population and consequently enhanced demand for meat products, the number of cattle has not grown proportionately, and last season the price for animals was higher and the price for the meat products advanced from 15 to 20 per cent. Both conditions demonstrate that in the cultural development of those countries which have passed from the stage of being simply producers of animals to that of agriculture on a large scale, and where meadows and grain fields have their place, that the animal industry can not keep pace with the exports of agricultural products.

Paraguay, on the contrary, where cattle raising still maintains the position of the greatest importance, is peculiarly adapted thereto, the grazing lands in the Misiones, Aquidaban, and Chaco being equal to the best in the territory of the Plate; indeed, there are advantages beyond those of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic in that certain periodical epidemics appearing there among live stock are not known in Paraguay. Notwithstanding that after the Paraguayan war of 1865–1869 hardly a head of cattle was left in the country and new stock had to be obtained from the neighboring Province of Corrientes, and also a small number from the State of Matto-Grosso in Brazil, the census of 1887 showed a total number of 912,245 head. According to the statistics of the "Oficina General de Estadistica del Paraguay," there were, in 1896, 2,102,680 head of cattle, with the number steadily increasing. The ratio of the cattle in Paraguay was, however, in 1896, only 6.63 head per square kilometer, while, for instance, in Germany, with 17,555,694 head, the ratio is 32.47.

Cattle raising in Paraguay has a bright future, and it is probable that the packing establishments of Mr. HECTOR BADO, in Caugó and Alto Parana, and of Mr. PEDRO RISSO, in Colonia Risso, will not only stimulate the industry, but will induce other capitalists to follow them.

A commercial treaty between Brazil and Paraguay will be consummated shortly.

PERU.

PRACTICABLE IRRIGATION WORKS.*

Ancient irrigation of the Incas.—The many remains of ancient cities, immense tumuli or catacombs, aqueducts, mounds, and other relics still existing in Peru, are other evidences of the ancient grandeur of the dynasty of the Incas, and prove, moreover, in a conclusive way the existence at that time of a numerous and active population which, under the wise paternal government of those monarchs, carried the science of agriculture to a high degree of perfection, constructing for the public weal magnificent engineering works in connection with irrigation and roads. The great sandy plains, which make up the littoral of the country, were converted into cultivated land through their prodigious system of irrigation, which during the period of drought they supplied with rain-water brought from the Cordilleras, where they accumulated it in immense depositories constructed there for the purpose. When the Spaniards arrived they found the country admirably cultivated and with a numerous population, but to-day the littoral, which in that epoch was teeming with inhabitants, is almost deserted.

The historians who relate the voyage of PIZARRO to Piura in search of Atahualpa paint that Province as a beautiful garden covered with surprising vegetation. Both banks of the Chira River were canalized with admirable ability, and in the dry season furnished water to the neighboring Piura River. The present population of the Province of Tumbes is 5,000 souls, in sad contrast with its former prosperity, when 100 miles of canal on either bank of that river furnished occupation to 80,000 agriculturists alone. Vestiges of roads and aqueducts are found throughout the country. As regards those of the mountains, they were laid on works constructed on the slopes of the hills where the water was distributed through small canals, some of which were constructed of auriferous rocks, and which the conquerors, in their insatiable thirst for gold, destroyed in greater part. Many of the principal aqueducts were subterranean, and near Cajamarca there still exist the remains of one constructed through the hills to serve as a drain for a great lake during the rainy season. These aqueducts, of which many yet remain intact, are from 4 to 6 feet in depth by 3 in width; they are built in greater part of smoothed stone. Many of these aqueducts are closed up; however, many are still utilizable, serving to fertilize the Nasca Valley, where the vine, which is extensively cultivated, frequently reaches the circumference of a poplar tree thirty years old.

In the pampas of Chimbote, Ancón, Cañete, and other places of the littoral the remains of ancient aqueducts are still to be seen. In the

* By H. Guillaume, Consul of Peru at Southampton. From "El Tiempo," Lima, August 4, 1899.

Department of Arequipa there is a large one which crosses the province of Condesuyos, following a route of from 400 to 500 miles in length, the course of which, although destroyed and stopped up in part, is still noticeable at various points by the fertility which is here and there produced by the water which comes to the surface through the arch of the conduit holding it. This system of irrigation traversed the coast region in every direction, with ramifications of other canals coming down from the summits of the Andes by a system of terraces and conduits arranged in such a way and with such ability and engineering skill that even now they are the admiration of experts, owing to their magnitude and remarkable workmanship.

The thirst for gold of the Spaniards, their conquerors, so far outstripped every other consideration that they disregarded and destroyed, or at least allowed to go to ruin, the splendid works of the Incas, and in lieu of favoring agriculture they devoted all of their care to mining. The conquerors compelled the natives to work as slaves in the mines, which brought about the decrease of the population, to which their slaughter, which was then perpetrated, contributed. The ravages consequent upon the conquest are evidenced by the immense territories converted into deserts, where the ruins and remains of populous Incan cities are still to be seen. The valley of Santa, for example, which at the time of the Incas contained 700,000 souls, now has not more than 5,000 people; the valley of Acarí has at the present day not more than 6,000 inhabitants, whereas in the former happy period there were 60,000.

The high price of silver during the period subsequent to the colonial and the existence of the *mita* (compulsory labor law) were the prime causes for the abandonment of agriculture, which was sacrificed by the covetousness of the conquerors for the precious metals. Later on, when Peru reconquered her independence, she began to experience the pernicious effects of the colonial system; the great decrease in the population made necessary the repeal of the *mita*, and since then the increase, though slow, is noticeable. The wise methods of the Incas have become more evident and appreciated, and as a consequence, preference has been given to agriculture, the products of which have already surpassed those of mining.

In the year 1851, when for the first time loans were raised for the construction of railroads, some of the party chiefs of the country endeavored to have £2,000,000 appropriated for irrigation works; but this proposition had to give way before the then deep-seated belief that the construction of railways was of the most urgent necessity for the prosperity of the country. Mr. G. R. FITZROY COLE, a well-known traveler in Peru, speaking of irrigation, says: "It is deplorable to think that when the needed gold arrived, in the shape of Peruvian loans, no portion of it was laid out in such purposes (irrigation), the whole amount being spent on railways. In that country irrigation works promise a certain return. Means for properly irrigating the

naturally rich valleys, which only ask moisture to spring into gardens, should naturally have been the first care of a provident ruler."

Many recent important irrigation works have been successfully carried out, but they are due solely to the efforts of private parties. Worthy of mention are those executed by Don DIONISIO DERTEANO, in the valley of Nasca, who, through the restoration of an ancient canal of the Incas, 50 kilometers in length, succeeded in fertilizing 10,000 hectares of land. The same thing happened with Don LUIS ALBRECHT in 1868, since, through an expenditure of £1,000, he repaired an Incan aqueduct in the Chira Valley, thus converting an extensive area of waste lands into a productive sugar-cane plantation. The valley of Chicama, previously a desert, and which this gentleman succeeded in thus fertilizing, is one of the most prosperous valleys of Peru. Don FRANCISCO MENDIZAL has likewise reclaimed from barrenness some 14,000 hectares of land in the valley of Lomas. Lately Mr. THOMAS GAIGE, an American, has made surveys for the irrigation of the valleys of Ica and Acarí.

Department of Piura.—This valley offers inestimable advantages for irrigation undertakings, and perhaps there is no other part of the world which merits the attention of capitalists more than this extremely fertile region, whose climate has no equal and where the most valuable products of the soil are obtained at the expense of little labor. One of the remarkable phenomena of the climate of these valleys is that it only rains copiously every seven or ten years. The cotton crop depends upon that periodical rain, being greater in the first years of the rain.

Valley of La Chira.—This valley contains 2,160 square miles, of which 40,000 acres are cultivable. There are, moreover, 77,000 acres of tillable land between Barranco and the hills on the right bank of the river. On the left bank 16,000 acres more are under cultivation, and an area ten times greater extends toward the hills, the irrigation of which is effected in some places by pools called *jaguais*, formed by the accumulation of rain-water. There is a canal constructed by the Incas which starts from the Pazui hills toward the sea, and it is so well preserved at certain points that it can be easily utilized at a slight expense.

Canals that should be constructed for irrigation in Piura.—According to the surveys made by several engineers at different times, there is no doubt that the lands on either side of the river can be made fertile through irrigation to the extent of being converted into marvelous centers of production. The engineers recommend the construction of two canals—one on the right bank of the river, to water the lands which extend to Amotape, and the other to have its source on the left bank, to fertilize the territory as far as Paita and La Silla, including a great part of the Sablazo, which is now nothing more than an immense sterile plain, which begins at the Somate hills and reaches to the sea. In order to divert the waters of the river which the said canals should receive, the place best calculated to construct a dam is at Corral de

Vaca (Somate plantation), on the right bank. By damming up the river at that point and making a basin of some 2,000 hectares, an immense reservoir 25 miles in circumference will be secured, from which the ditch will take the water to irrigate 60,000 hectares of land. According to Mr. STERLING the ditch would be 53 miles long and would cost £85,000.

The left-hand canal is an enterprise of greater magnitude, and includes the Sablazo in its radius, of which it will fertilize 500 hectares barren in greater part. This work, according to the engineer named, would cost £107,000. The canal in this case ought to be carried to Sullana, where it would be divided into two branches, one going toward the port of Paita and the other toward La Silla, the total length of the canal being some 96 miles. At present there are on the banks of this river 46 plantations, comprising 400,000 acres, which, as in Egypt, India, and California, depend upon uncertain rains and periodical floods. If only the half of those La Chira lands could be perennially watered, the value of the plantations would be doubled, as is natural.

The Piura River and its valleys.—It is calculated that there are on both banks of the river 1,760,000 acres of land which could be cultivated if the water from different sources which is lost should be stored to be utilized during the dry season. During the rainy season the river is 350 feet wide and from 15 to 20 feet deep. Unfortunately, this quantity of water does not last more than three months in the year; but were it permanent there would be no necessity of irrigation works for the barren though naturally fruitful lands on its banks.

Here follows the quantity of water which is discharged into the sea from the month of February up to September, the abundance of which would suffice for any irrigation undertaking of the greatest possible magnitude:

	Cubic meters.		Cubic meters.
February	97, 500, 000	July	60, 500, 000
March	607, 500, 000	August	28, 600, 000
April	593, 800, 000	September	10, 000, 000
May	329, 000, 000		
June	98, 800, 000	Total	1, 827, 700, 000

It is surprising beyond measure that no advantage is taken of this great mass of water which loses itself in the sea, and that, in view of the marvelous fertility of the valley, there has only been constructed one canal 12 miles in length.

Mr. ALFRED T. SEARS, an American engineer, has obtained a valuable concession from the Government for the irrigation of the waste lands in this valley. The opinion of Mr. SEARS, and that of the other Government engineers who assisted him in the surveys, is that at an expense of 1,000,000 *soles* there can be obtained an amount of water sufficient to irrigate the lands of Piura, Castilla, Catacaes, and Sechura, and the plantations of Puenta Arenas, Chapayra, San Vicente, Papayo, Coromayo, La Peñita, Ferela, and Miraflores, and on the left bank

Parales and Huan, which are to-day fertilized only in the lower part, where the river passes. This project will further serve to fertilize s(e 100,000 hectares of waste lands on this bank. All the territory that would be benefited would make some 880,000 acres, at an insignificant cost compared with what the lands would gain in value.

Rio Tumbes.—Among the irrigation projects leading to the advancement of Peru the third in importance is that of the Valley of Tumbes, whose river, bearing the same name, has its source in the auriferous mountains of Zaruma, in Ecuador. The Province of Tumbes has an area of 4,500 square miles in valleys, hills, and woods, of which 450,000 acres could be fertilized and dedicated to agriculture through irrigation. Only the lands on the left bank of the river, in Noria, are irrigable by means of centrifugal pumps, like in Egypt, which draw directly from the river 1,200 gallons of water per minute. In this portion of the irrigated lands are obtained good crops of coffee, cacao, cotton, tobacco, and an abundance of fruits of different kinds. The other lands on both sides for 18 miles could also receive the benefits of irrigation; but those which it is proposed to water are such as are comprised between the Tumbes and Zarumilla rivers. These lands have a width of 25 miles, are level in their greater part, and covered with forests which produce several kinds of valuable woods.

The canals constructed by the Incas on both sides of the Tumbes River have a length of nearly 100 miles. The thickness of their walls, built of granite rock, is 20 feet and their height 12. These canals offer a magnificent opportunity to capitalists who would utilize them profitably.

The approximate cost of the several irrigation projects is as follows:

	Soles.
For a canal on the right bank of the La Chira River to irrigate 45,000 hectares	600,000
For a canal on the left bank of the same river to irrigate 500,000 hectares	750,000
For 2 canals, one on each bank of the Piura River, to irrigate 400,000 hectares	1,000,000
For 2 canals, one on each bank of the Tumbes River, to irrigate 150,000 hectares	1,000,000

The area irrigated, which would be 1,110,000 hectares, would cost consequently 3,350,000 *soles*, or £478,571.

It can be seen, then, that the above-mentioned area, equivalent to 2,442,000 acres, can be utilized at an insignificant expense of 1.37 *soles* per acre.

The approximate production which would be obtained:

Supposing that of all the lands comprised in the three valleys named only 300,000 hectares, or 750,000 acres, should be put under cotton, devoting the rest to the sowing of sugar cane, coffee, cacao, rice, etc., and estimating a modest yield of 5 quintals of cleaned cotton per hectare, there would result, in lieu of the 80,000 to 100,000 quintals which are at present produced, an annual production of 1,500,000 quintals, which, at

the rate of £3 per quintal, would give the sum of £4,500,000, which shows a greater production than is obtained in Egypt, where the cotton yield is less per acre than that now obtained in Piura.

The present value of the lands in this Department is 500 *soles* per hectare; but, estimating the said 1,100,000 hectares at 70 *soles* only, the real value would ascend to £10,850,000, which means an enormous profit for the company that shall assume the undertaking.

Department of Lambayeque.—The area of this Department is 17,694 square miles, level in greater part and very fertile. It produces in abundance rice, sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, cacao, corn, etc. In this Department, as along the whole coast, the lack of water is the only obstacle preventing the realization of an immense production. For the purpose of increasing the cultivable land, the Government appointed a commission which, after making the proper investigations, confirmed three of the measures that had been suggested, declaring furthermore that the irrigation of several other portions of the Department was feasible. The valleys of Olmos, which border on the desert of Sechura, naturally claim preferred attention, and consequently the construction of 20 miles of canal which shall bring into the Sucuchingana River the waters of the other small streams which feed it, and from which they would descend to fertilize the said valleys, has received the choice. The construction of an aqueduct at an expense of £100,000 to bring down the waters of the lakes and the tributaries of the Chota River in order to irrigate the valleys of Mórrope and Motupe has also been declared practicable.

La Libertad.—At the present time the waters of the Chicama River only serve to irrigate one-third of the fertile valley of that name. This deficiency may be easily remedied by bringing the waters from the lakes in the Cordilleras. The Valley of Santa Catalina could also provide itself with all the water it needs from the lakes of San Lorenzo and Cayaiján, situated in the Huanchaco Cordilleras, 25 leagues distant. The water was formerly brought through the Valley of San Lorenzo to the San Felipe River, irrigating in its course the barren lands of that valley until it reached the Huanchaco pampas; but now the water of the Moche River is lost in the sea. Through the construction of a basin at Chungus Blanco a deposit of water 160,000,000 cubic meters in dimension may be secured. The cost of constructing the basin and restoring the ancient aqueduct is estimated at £15,000, and should there be need of more water another basin can be constructed at Porca at a like cost.

Department of Ancachs.—The proposed plans for irrigation are, in the first place, to furnish permanent water to the Nepeña River. This can be accomplished by restoring the old canals of the Incas which formerly brought water from the lakes of the Negra Cordillera, in the Province of Huaylas, with which 50,000 hectares could be irrigated. In the second place, by repairing the ancient irrigation works on both banks of the Santa River, whereby the fertilizing of some 150,000 hectares, or

330,000 acres, of productive lands would be accomplished. The cost of this is estimated at £28,000.

Department of Lima.—Even in the Department of the capital irrigation would be greatly beneficial to many lands anciently cultivated by the Incas, but subsequently abandoned by the conquerors. The engineering experts in the matter assert that all the sterile lands of the pampas of Las Animas can be irrigated without much difficulty, and through an expenditure of £8,500 the fertilization and prodigious productiveness of some 2,000 hectares of land in Ancón which the ancients irrigated with the waters of the Ventanillas lakes would be accomplished. Should the waters of the Rimac be augmented by those of Lake Huarochirí, its volume would be sufficient to fertilize the pampas of Nieveriá, Canto Grande, and other valleys. The restoration of the ancient hydraulic works in the Cañete Valley also present a favorable opportunity to invest capital profitably.

Department of Ica.—There are vast territories in Chincha-Alta which may be irrigated with the waters of the lakes of Tambo de Turpo, and several other lands in the Valley of Ica, on the banks of the rivers Viscas and Palpa, which may also be watered by increasing the volume of these rivers with the waters of Lake Chocollococha, or by bringing the water of Rio Grande through a small canal to the Valley of Palpa at an expense of about £8,000. There is also the purpose of restoring the aqueducts of the Nasca District; and the plan has likewise been formed to take the water from various lakes situated in the Parinacochas highlands to irrigate 40,000 hectares of land, which could be done at an expense of £80,000.

Department of Arequipa.—Arequipa has in its littoral Provinces of Camaná, Islay, and Arequipa a very extensive area of arid and unproductive land, the irrigation of which would be an undertaking of positive profit. The lands of the Province of Camaná, known as the Valle de Lomas and Pampas de Bella Union, may be irrigated by the Acarí River, after increasing its volume with the streams and lakes of the Cordilleras between Lucanas and Parinacochas. The cultivatable lands of the Ocoña Valley would also improve this circumstance to increase the production of its vineyards and olive orchards, and the 20,000 hectares of the Valley of Camaná would be increased to 30,000. This operation would cost £12,000.

Another of the plans which has been mooted for a long time past is the irrigation of the lands surrounding Arequipa. For the irrigation of these lands known as the Pampas de Miraflores, two projects are suggested. One is to bring the water from the Arcococha and Chinacocha lakes, and the other is to unite the small Chiguata and Yumina rivers with the Sabandia and deviate the latter through the aqueduct of Paucarpata to bring it down to the plains.

Although canals would be of great benefit at many places, the engineers judge that at La Pascana, Cocotes, Yaleque, Havre, and in the

Pampas de Méjica, La Joya, and Cruz de Tambo it would be more advisable to bore artesian wells. The cultivated area in the Department of Arequipa is 16,361 acres, and that which might be acquired in Vinconcaya, Oncococha, Chiguata would be of equal extent, through irrigation works that would cost £80,000.

Crops.—The favorite plant of the agriculturist and that which yields him the greatest profit, owing to the good price it brings, by reason of its fiber being long and silky thus lending itself to admixture with wool in the manufacture of goods of this latter material (in which it can not be discovered) is cotton. There exist here 18 seeding machines and presses for cotton which is produced on 300 plantations. There have been instances of this native plant, which can almost be called perennial, bearing for thirty years and yielding two crops annually. The sowing is done after flooding of the lands by the overflow of the rivers. For three years the plant takes advantage of the inundations to develop, and the yield of the second year is the best, it being reproduced every third year. During this time each hectare produces 5,400 pounds of cotton, which, at the rate of 18 cents per pound, yields 620 *soles* per hectare. The cost of clearing, sowing, and picking is 150 *soles*, leaving consequently a handsome profit of 470 *soles* per hectare for the planter. The Department has yielded in four good seasons 10,000,000 *soles* in cotton.

Other agricultural products of that region are coffee and cacao, which also yield two crops a year, and their cultivation is now the object of greater care on the part of the agriculturists. Sugar cane yields in from ten to eleven months after planting. Tobacco of good quality, which is principally raised in Tumbez, gives from five to eight crops per annum. As regards cereals, including Indian corn, the crops are abundant. Large numbers of cattle, horses, mules, and goats are raised, and great quantities of hides are also exported. The Department has the third most important port (Paita) in all Peru, through which one-fourth of the commerce of the country passes. The inhabitants devote themselves assiduously to commerce, which is in consequence quite active. The roads are good, the coast is level, and telegraph lines are already in operation. A great petroleum interest has been established along the coast, and the Department of Piura promises to be, if it is not already, the most prosperous of the country.

DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The German Consul at Cuzco reports that there exists in Peru a good demand for agricultural machinery suitable for small *haciendas* (farms or plantations) in the interior of the country. These implements or machines, the Consul says, have to be put up in small sections or divisions, so that they can be made up into packages weighing not more than 75 kilograms (165.35 pounds) for transportation over the mountains on the backs of mules or other animals. In sending their catalogues manufacturers should say whether or not their respective

machines are suitable for such transportation, and give exact weights in kilograms of the different sections. This is a point of the greatest importance in Peru, as much or more so than in any other country.

SCARCITY OF COCAINE.

Peru produces practically all the raw cocaine that the world consumes. It is manufactured from the leaves of the coca plant, and to supply the demand in the United States the dry leaves are either shipped direct and the drug manufactured from them, or a coarse native product made from the leaves in Peru is imported and refined by improved processes. For several months disturbances in the interior of Peru have prevented the gatherers of coca leaves from shipping their supplies to Lima, the principal market; consequently the price of the drug in the United States has risen from $2.50 to $6.25 per ounce during the last few months.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A dispatch dated Lima, December 12, 1899, states that during the closing hours of the extraordinary session of the National Congress, on the 11th instant, the Extradition Treaty with the United States was approved by that body. This treaty will now have to be ratified by the Senate of the United States.

SALVADOR.

RECENT TARIFF CHANGES.

On October 28 last the Government of Salvador issued a decree placing a surtax of three silver pesos on each 100 kilograms, gross weight, of merchandise imported into the Republic. The articles exempted from this impost are: Steam, hydraulic, or hand-power machinery for agriculture, plows, etc.; fertilizers; iron vessels for balsam; filters of all kinds; hare hair and other hair for hat making; looms of all kinds; printing and lithographic ink; prepared chalk for use in schools. The decree went into effect on November 1, last.

SANTO DOMINGO (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

SUBSTITUTION OF COIN.

A dispatch from Santo Domingo, dated December 11, 1899, says that the country is quiet and business is improving. The same message states that the National Congress has authorized the Government to withdraw national coin in exchange for gold and silver of the United States, commencing in March, 1900.

COMMERCIAL SITUATION IN 1898-99.

The English Consul in Santo Domingo reports that the situation has been far from prosperous, the country having been deluged with depreciated silver money and bank notes having no other guarantee than that of being accepted by the Dominican Government in payment of the import duties at the official rate of exchange of two dollars of national money for one dollar in gold. As a result, the merchants have not been able to meet their foreign obligations with the money in which their merchandise is sold, and, having a limited credit, have not been able to import, thereby causing a stagnation in business. The prices of all merchandise and provisions have so increased that the poorer people are scarcely able to obtain the necessities of life, and there is, in consequence, a great deal of dissatisfaction and misery among this class. Practically trade has been reduced to the mere exchange of products. Consequently a little more wood has been exported. The sugar industry is, and has always been, the principal one of the country. Coffee and tobacco are exported, the quality of this last comparing favorably with that of Cuba.

Two railroads are in exploitation. One is a national enterprise, the other a private one in German hands. A concession has been granted to a United States company for the construction of another railroad, ending at the port of Barahona, in a district from which different kinds of wood for cabinet making are taken.

The European commerce of the country is gradually passing to Germany or German houses established in England, which send agents to Santo Domingo speaking Spanish and provided with samples.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of October, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the ten months ending October, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily

consumed in compilation and priuting, so that the complete returns for October, for example, are not published until some time in December:

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (*Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche*)—				
Mexico	$1,030		$10,671	$11,995
Coal, bituminous (*Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre*):				
Mexico	18,909	$15,745	178,267	168,137
Cocoa (*Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao*):				
Central America		322	6,902	1,131
Brazil	154,804	66,280	292,671	328,094
Other South America	87,806	70,462	1,012,906	1,344,695
Coffee (*Café; Café; Café*):				
Central America	82,827	46,961	4,080,656	5,047,653
Mexico	56,497	155,029	2,779,752	2,686,364
Brazil	2,127,210	3,576,879	28,329,830	31,255,228
Other South America	675,919	388,538	6,560,590	5,703,566
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé*):				
South America	9,365	2,401	140,523	119,325
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (*Henequen; Henequen; Hennequen*)—				
Mexico	781,704	748,411	6,404,779	7,031,307
Philippine Islands	355,711	250,152	2,489,148	3,591,471
Fruits:				
Bananas (*Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes*)—				
Central America	160,506	194,692	1,503,980	1,771,175
South America	16,442	70,281	425,251	879,757
Oranges (*Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges*)—				
Mexico	16,727	49,803	20,797	65,995
Fur skins (*Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures*):				
South America	12,735	4,761	85,872	147,488
Hides and skins (*Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux*):				
Central America	21,625	39,377	181,028	302,727
Mexico	117,300	149,404	1,424,039	1,696,406
South America	538,631	782,341	7,846,198	8,712,269
India rubber, crude (*Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut*):				
Central America	67,369	61,163	443,985	714,709
Mexico	11,162	20,333	51,825	157,263
Brazil	669,913	1,400,387	10,449,113	14,798,088
Other South America	76,945	80,512	643,200	850,108
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (*Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.*):				
Mexico	152,513	152,227	1,389,599	1,776,235
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (*Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16*):				
Central America	7,192	3,927	213,511	172,512
Mexico	257	9,201	44,176	74,905
Cuba	788,219	196,595	11,810,000	17,657,468
Brazil			2,386,886	681,865
Other South America	326,670	376,552	3,929,666	4,051,877
Hawaiian Islands	794,661	1,676,038	15,123,065	20,822,412
Philippine Islands	169,950	93,750	993,183	910,313
Tobacco, leaf (*Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles*):				
Mexico	52,698	2,169	253,976	29,661
Cuba	335,982	691,617	2,236,223	5,417,387

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Wood, mahogany (*Caoba; Mogno; Acajou*):				
Central America	$26,280	.....	$172,658	$252,509
Mexico	28,915	$24,009	243,802	347,202
Cuba	.....	12,982	933	62,488
South America	1,562	7,344	36,803	18,265
Wool (*Lana; Lã; Laine*):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing)	224	60,935	534,584	540,414
Class 2 (combing)	97	.....	19,126	101
Class 3 (carpet)	81,192	40,505	840,833	483,671

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (*Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles*):				
Central America	$320	$107	$5,610	$5,904
Mexico	10,321	27,729	126,452	262,398
Santo Domingo	.....	495	354	1,239
Cuba	1,478	13,976	4,028	93,202
Porto Rico	251	533	677	4,915
Argentina	127,503	121,840	933,014	1,787,054
Brazil	1,636	3,525	20,474	28,770
Colombia	40	134	3,935	711
Other South America	24,329	4,956	248,356	247,442
Animals:				
Cattle (*Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail*)—				
Central America	420	.....	2,585	565
Mexico	9,374	13,635	75,501	110,721
South America	.....	.....	6,903	2,380
Hogs (*Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons*)—				
Mexico	899	1,219	5,632	68,974
Horses (*Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux*)—				
Central America	30	.....	10,945	1,758
Mexico	13,609	15,288	82,775	73,548
South America	.....	600	2,023	3,330
Sheep (*Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons*)—				
Mexico	3,120	802	11,922	4,012
South America	1,040	705	9,293	7,492
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (*Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.*):				
Central America	3,178	430	26,326	41,047
Mexico	3,136	12,080	64,373	69,849
Santo Domingo	1,000	12	1,858	7,326
Cuba	1,583	3,021	7,117	54,026
Porto Rico	2,276	1,124	3,598	15,566
Argentina	2,380	2,144	20,413	21,400
Brazil	8,434	11,512	45,085	46,803
Colombia	591	10,428	8,155	47,868
Other South America	27,006	1,928	64,261	50,819
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (*Maíz; Milho; Maïs*)—				
Central America	4,323	2,872	50,143	31,596
Mexico	3,718	19,394	10,702	124,872
Santo Domingo	.....	.....	63	315
Cuba	2,659	47,988	239,811	385,946
Porto Rico	.....	.....	.....	251
South America	1,966	28,664	16,305	71,142
Wheat (*Trigo; Trigo; Blé*)—				
Central America	4,973	1,700	37,828	15,644
South America	319	.....	386,096	69,318
Wheat flour (*Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé*)—				
Central America	77,840	75,599	1,020,530	730,803
Mexico	17,765	8,286	89,395	127,783
Santo Domingo	5,795	17,298	153,605	120,712
Cuba	114,344	144,582	1,060,345	1,664,653
Porto Rico	49,025	45,461	305,868	453,034

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Breadstuffs—Continued.				
Wheat flour—Continued.				
Brazil	$439,994	$198,575	$2,679,773	$2,158,202
Colombia	22,824	40,268	312,890	382,973
Other South America	143,676	118,883	1,291,316	1,333,716
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (*Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties*):				
Central America	4,329	656	40,967	15,468
Mexico	22,797	58,731	229,756	715,979
Santo Domingo	2,914	627	13,585	12,382
Cuba	806	25,805	20,367	138,544
Porto Rico	57	1,126	1,502	9,797
Argentina	41,950	29,648	496,455	227,822
Brazil	8,987	3,587	557,387	189,915
Colombia	1,827	840	41,076	14,283
Other South America	6,864	2,853	73,829	43,229
Cycles and parts of (*Bicicios y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties*):				
Central America	981	340	6,535	4,483
Mexico	2,032	2,064	52,983	37,601
Santo Domingo	----------	25	598	323
Cuba	524	13,039	3,930	77,543
Porto Rico	997	167	2,351	2,478
Argentina	22,481	26,080	101,512	258,598
Brazil	6,661	2,521	88,701	28,914
Colombia	479	848	7,372	7,638
Other South America	8,229	5,943	42,747	55,881
Clocks and watches (*Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres*):				
Central America	442	33	4,590	2,115
Mexico	3,619	1,655	18,802	25,104
Argentina	507	2,514	23,473	23,674
Brazil	5,107	4,818	38,281	46,457
Other South America	11,419	6,827	76,596	60,671
Coal (*Carbón; Carvão; Charbon*):				
Central America	337	1,850	8,091	15,244
Mexico	87,626	117,922	915,753	1,214,917
Santo Domingo	1,300	866	9,121	7,740
Cuba	45,711	35,336	371,062	559,497
Porto Rico	2,550	550	17,648	41,651
Brazil	4,396	1,200	130,001	99,785
Colombia	340	224	17,671	49,830
Other South America	22,068	2,812	122,687	56,041
Copper (*Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre*):				
Mexico	7,857	38,429	267,209	248,736
Cotton, unmanufactured (*Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé*):				
Mexico	87,878	11,042	711,417	439,158
Cotton cloths (*Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé*):				
Central America	49,491	58,887	398,960	523,631
Mexico	33,727	45,691	367,490	455,889
Santo Domingo	12,597	4,226	124,120	142,502
Cuba	10,277	40,474	16,469	658,311
Porto Rico	2,490	11,467	3,656	238,467
Argentina	26,376	9,494	147,912	105,918
Brazil	47,569	54,205	471,424	369,717
Colombia	23,305	27,806	228,633	333,776
Other South America	200,278	40,872	1,118,574	894,534
Wearing apparel, cotton (*Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton*):				
Central America	17,662	27,741	182,139	237,621
Mexico	30,564	49,645	309,149	379,845
Santo Domingo	2,975	269	18,854	14,148
Cuba	2,076	16,623	14,100	162,804
Porto Rico	1,047	1,789	1,878	41,191
Argentina	5,075	1,420	37,746	37,677
Brazil	2,606	5,096	34,875	28,518
Colombia	4,669	4,561	33,735	36,784
Other South America	4,960	2,006	36,276	57,653

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Fruits and nuts (*Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes*):				
Central America	$2,013	$3,913	$22,363	$23,512
Mexico	6,628	7,817	50,511	58,628
Santo Domingo	17	147	492	529
Cuba	7,619	11,955	25,066	56,654
Porto Rico	682	1,451	1,213	5,909
Argentina	1,386	98	7,970	14,664
Brazil	6,231	7,113	12,647	14,162
Colombia	808	599	6,205	7,343
Other South America	3,382	1,825	15,516	15,419
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (*Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Apparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques*)—				
Central America	5,617	1,884	60,155	50,988
Mexico	40,614	32,950	265,023	402,613
Argentina	20,409	34,425	149,595	252,638
Brazil	7,490	12,988	60,755	127,523
Other South America	16,684	6,813	97,517	105,631
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (*Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier*)—				
Central America	3,418	6,868	21,893	24,602
Mexico	16,088	77,832	555,108	418,644
South America	25,860	3,801	318,473	106,092
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (*Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils*)—				
Central America	4,884	8,845	60,927	73,858
Mexico	19,939	41,444	309,157	375,085
Santo Domingo	665	1,050	9,512	8,063
Cuba	19,381	35,825	54,178	349,647
Porto Rico	589	1,976	4,976	25,447
Argentina	35,489	21,626	173,933	213,440
Brazil	13,523	6,571	149,019	188,234
Colombia	9,082	33,264	75,443	112,258
Other South America	26,287	18,384	166,650	210,493
Sewing machines and parts of (*Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	1,013	1,529	18,419	17,502
Mexico	13,601	30,028	171,547	252,969
Santo Domingo	181	----------	1,528	1,369
Cuba	300	6,698	579	39,291
Porto Rico	665	401	1,715	4,276
Argentina	5,600	4,663	68,161	140,601
Brazil	7,053	14,510	79,164	114,677
Colombia	5,136	1,383	59,878	40,382
Other South America	13,873	11,525	93,742	111,946
Typewriting machines and parts of (*Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir é accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties*)—				
Central America	95	526	1,216	1,879
Mexico	1,667	7,050	26,044	51,586
Santo Domingo	80	----------	80	187
Cuba	410	2,124	1,320	23,445
Argentina	4,191	1,587	24,843	34,837
Brazil	846	1,294	4,470	7,939
Colombia	839	129	2,743	2,500
Other South America	1,942	858	13,014	22,531
Leather, other than sole (*Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles*):				
Central America	3,109	1,843	7,823	11,662
Mexico	----------	1,841	5,215	18,908
Santo Domingo	271	17	629	1,074
Cuba	----------	3,444	1,742	27,749
Porto Rico	315	80	1,533	7,608
Argentina	1,600	3,429	15,220	44,106
Brazil	3,686	3,065	44,973	58,124
Colombia	262	715	2,707	3,906
Other South America	4,321	2,806	16,525	34,511

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Boots and shoes (*Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures*):				
Central America	$4,894	$12,041	$59,455	$105,468
Mexico	13,428	22,196	87,382	257,817
Colombia	2,171	3,728	29,430	34,661
Other South America	3,512	3,842	31,163	22,010
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (*Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron*)—				
Central America	635	677	14,052	12,092
Mexico	179	276	7,574	7,974
Santo Domingo	618	334	3,912	3,426
Cuba	582	940	4,763	11,191
Porto Rico	288	92	609	870
Argentina	----	14,179	59,674	86,061
Brazil	17,211	10,047	146,858	178,487
Colombia	1,074	663	10,586	10,135
Other South America	16,167	3,392	74,420	54,854
Turpentine, spirits of (*Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine*)—				
Central America	196	529	2,602	4,384
Mexico	385	328	3,678	3,793
Santo Domingo	40	91	400	531
Cuba	1,948	2,976	10,040	44,817
Porto Rico	157	129	906	4,386
Argentina	820	7,528	105,827	67,958
Brazil	5,801	1,932	61,661	53,276
Colombia	337	531	3,938	5,676
Other South America	2,900	742	53,750	53,048
Oils, mineral, crude (*Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos minerae, crús; Huiles minérales, brutes*):				
Mexico	30,626	----	241,384	355,684
Cuba	17,418	----	116,023	181,644
Porto Rico	----	----	19,477	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (*Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos minerae, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées*):				
Central America	11,550	8,666	101,501	115,242
Mexico	16,555	18,385	138,342	176,398
Santo Domingo	1,607	2,163	34,703	31,989
Cuba	7,068	3,397	40,066	93,455
Porto Rico	8,118	2,388	24,322	14,163
Argentina	61,465	85,015	793,523	869,136
Brazil	134,818	168,094	1,246,805	1,318,772
Colombia	6,926	16,122	90,261	119,834
Other South America	78,861	54,839	829,318	949,730
Oils, vegetable (*Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales*):				
Central America	582	962	2,984	5,035
Mexico	49,943	98,525	296,547	530,002
Santo Domingo	2,075	4,821	27,903	27,544
Cuba	1,365	3,143	2,555	31,157
Argentina	1,390	1,693	10,649	32,354
Brazil	32,061	3,893	206,748	160,032
Other South America	9,892	6,072	91,296	101,595
Paraffin and paraffin wax (*Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance*):				
Central America	3,287	2,971	24,926	24,525
Mexico	15,044	31,541	125,894	223,332
Brazil	451	1,318	9,293	10,491
Other South America	638	1,225	5,753	9,377
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (*Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé*)—				
Central America	1,180	3,975	18,096	19,933
Mexico	624	2,272	11,784	18,173
Santo Domingo	11	----	37	98
Cuba	170	1,923	5,273	12,936
Argentina	----	----	505	1,484
Brazil	1,101	4,177	20,779	17,004
Colombia	259	577	4,356	5,806
Other South America	1,209	2,217	11,140	15,961

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled (*Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure*)—				
Central America	$2,642	$3,231	$30,599	$32,336
Mexico	.....	270	190	2,064
Santo Domingo	213	406	3,212	5,086
Cuba	2,300	672	11,667	21,547
Porto Rico	77	231	248	1,645
Brazil	270	187	1,675	1,452
Colombia	1,094	2,131	10,947	15,503
Other South America	26,531	8,593	160,544	133,523
Tallow (*Sebo; Sebo; Suif*)—				
Central America	8,295	6,563	81,742	75,371
Mexico	915	1,548	18,666	24,220
Santo Domingo	2,689	1,650	18,707	16,167
Cuba	6,471	.....	18,112	2,129
Porto Rico	191	58	367	377
Brazil	13,184	50	19,540	22,469
Colombia	307	529	7,648	16,509
Other South America	7,574	1,784	24,757	38,177
Bacon (*Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé*)—				
Central America	1,281	2,126	13,424	17,041
Mexico	976	2,018	9,736	18,475
Santo Domingo	53	254	1,975	1,979
Cuba	28,852	78,610	477,473	790,475
Porto Rico	7,319	6,617	35,383	62,496
Brazil	79,454	5,871	412,483	163,262
Colombia	386	75	1,159	1,592
Other South America	207	316	15,921	11,932
Hams (*Jamones; Presunto; Jambons*)—				
Central America	1,703	3,406	19,990	22,107
Mexico	2,437	5,785	23,170	31,259
Santo Domingo	468	796	5,916	5,735
Cuba	38,681	55,836	258,788	616,035
Porto Rico	833	2,907	15,512	21,304
Brazil	243	13	3,560	2,723
Colombia	1,225	2,322	11,495	15,586
Other South America	7,650	5,412	57,956	69,100
Pork (*Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc*)—				
Central America	3,647	5,276	64,105	54,713
Santo Domingo	447	1,097	5,997	6,168
Cuba	1,025	31,102	12,694	90,671
Porto Rico	14,452	19,382	115,493	160,353
Brazil	64	.....	4,275	3,001
Colombia	575	932	7,314	29,537
Other South America	32,618	14,400	192,825	160,528
Lard (*Manteca; Banha; Saindoux*)—				
Central America	13,218	10,770	149,979	143,527
Mexico	12,082	42,219	118,564	251,295
Santo Domingo	1,544	3,211	29,520	22,819
Cuba	63,366	172,160	875,400	1,522,856
Porto Rico	39,395	21,547	181,961	201,674
Argentina	22	1,035	2,993	4,417
Brazil	183,739	56,514	948,020	844,803
Colombia	5,617	12,469	77,625	116,801
Other South America	67,093	26,933	554,328	594,387
Oleo and oleomargarine (*Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine*)—				
Central America	40	634	1,350	3,646
Mexico	.....	15	1,009	742
Colombia	427	378	7,375	10,393
Other South America	582	753	10,072	22,895
Butter (*Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre*)—				
Central America	3,033	4,305	38,584	40,052
Mexico	2,832	4,057	37,911	41,860
Santo Domingo	837	1,110	9,604	7,100
Cuba	4,380	4,679	12,391	90,644
Porto Rico	2,588	74	3,784	4,676
Brazil	15,533	11,527	87,307	180,396
Colombia	1,429	1,212	13,031	13,501
Other South America	9,439	3,052	90,366	164,662

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Cheese (*Queso; Queijo; Fromage*)—				
Central America	$1,371	$2,228	$14,677	$15,368
Mexico	974	2,398	12,347	19,742
Santo Domingo	382	603	3,998	4,069
Cuba	6,220	2,281	23,951	56,760
Porto Rico	1,465	2,259	3,032	30,305
Brazil	295	----------	370	217
Colombia	715	821	7,640	6,695
Other South America	1,295	633	12,892	11,374
Sugar, refined (*Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné*):				
Central America	1,758	1,757	29,252	19,298
Mexico	3,389	21	12,887	54,555
Santo Domingo	----------	91	970	719
Colombia	1,001	1,291	15,079	14,268
Other South America	----------	12	1,083	2,128
Tobacco, unmanufactured (*Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé*):				
Central America	2,873	1,595	21,181	24,494
Mexico	5,524	13,660	102,292	133,710
Argentina	2,020	1,261	15,259	19,253
Colombia	303	1,371	6,555	6,300
Other South America	16,270	6,510	90,007	86,247
Tobacco, manufactures of (*Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabrique*):				
Central America	3,062	4,294	46,063	45,591
Mexico	210	299	24,823	15,116
Cuba	13,426	9,696	98,297	164,771
Argentina	----------	8,625	1,782	16,754
Brazil	----------	----------	550	352
Colombia	68	572	5,412	5,831
Other South America	7,842	432	64,793	50,976
Wood, unmanufactured (*Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut*):				
Central America	1,513	747	23,770	21,019
Mexico	26,611	20,350	354,120	127,433
Cuba	2,678	5,412	15,361	47,740
Argentina	4,593	----------	11,679	14,251
Brazil	----------	----------	75	240
Colombia	----------	77	25,142	15,268
Other South America	10,065	305	30,968	46,004
Lumber (*Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction*):				
Central America	6,913	7,599	37,644	48,800
Mexico	49,482	80,045	625,113	826,998
Santo Domingo	2,425	5,167	26,355	33,809
Cuba	62,580	91,123	212,562	787,001
Porto Rico	1,912	25,289	21,156	105,747
Argentina	89,759	84,867	773,495	828,875
Brazil	33,717	47,084	287,587	383,031
Colombia	4,304	12,884	39,923	52,683
Other South America	51,585	28,804	456,675	501,146
Furniture (*Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles*):				
Central America	2,996	5,219	35,390	31,828
Mexico	19,030	32,676	146,632	258,786
Santo Domingo	230	337	7,227	6,609
Cuba	2,899	28,855	14,159	165,228
Porto Rico	230	3,717	3,200	33,179
Argentina	----------	7,444	41,487	91,648
Brazil	4,079	2,666	22,954	29,796
Colombia	1,576	1,274	21,069	24,740
Other South America	9,797	2,189	64,207	55,465

FOREIGN TRADE IN OCTOBER.

The summary of the imports and exports of merchandise for the month of October, 1899, was completed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department on November 24. This shows that the imports for the month of October, 1899, were valued at almost $20,000,000 more than in the corresponding month of 1898, and that the value of the exports was—including foreign goods reexported—$7,300,000 more than in October, 1899; also that the amount of duties collected in October, 1899, was $3,252,576 in excess of the amount received the previous October.

The imports for the corresponding months were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTS, FREE AND DUTIABLE.		
Articles of food and animals	$18,382,038	$16,446,283
Articles in a crude condition which enter into the various processes of domestic industry	23,343,683	15,176,977
Articles wholly or partially manufactured for use as materials in the manufactures and mechanic arts	8,293,604	4,742,829
Articles manufactured ready for consumption	11,301,195	8,632 583
Articles for voluntary use, luxuries, etc	10,821.829	7,350,854
Total	72,142,349	52,349,526
EXPORTS.		
Products of agriculture	82,719,437	83,689,905
Manufactured products	33,864,376	25,416,046
Products of the mine	2,823,266	2,539.116
Products of the forest	3,856,850	2,838,855
Products of the fisheries	737,780	1,439,818
Miscellaneous products	378,594	493,081
Total, domestic	124,380,303	116,416,821
Foreign, free of duty	556,052	656.213
Foreign, dutiable	982,772	1,546 529
Total	125,919,127	118,619,563

The imports of gold in October, 1899, amounted to $8,542,132, against $16,738,353 in the same month in 1898. The exports of gold during the month of October were $379,752 in 1899, against $1,279,926 in 1898. The imports and exports of silver in the two periods under comparison were: Imports in 1899, $2,319,652; in 1898, $2,553,444; exports in 1899, $4,683,226; in 1898, $4,512,827.

The amount of duties collected at the custom-houses in October, 1899, was $18,807,810; in October, 1898, $15,555,234. The amount of duties collected in the ten months of the calendar year ending with October was $185,751,830, against $150,711,033 collected during the same period in 1898.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Senate, in executive session, December 11, 1899, removed the injunction of secrecy from the commercial treaties negotiated between the United States and other countries last summer. All have previously been referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN except those with France and the Argentine Republic. The latter treaty provides for a

reduction of 20 per cent on articles of Argentine origin which may be imported into the United States, as follows:

"On sugar, the reduction to be on the rates fixed by article 209 of the tariff act of 1897. Such sugars are also to be exempt from the requirements of article 5 of that act, provided they are shown to have not paid any internal tax nor received any bounty.

"On hides, on the rates prescribed by article 437 of the tariff of 1897, but the concession is not to be construed as impairing the regulations to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases.

"On wool, on the rates prescribed by articles 357, 358, and 359 of the act of 1897."

In return, the Argentine Republic agrees to the following tariff reductions upon articles from the United States:

"Fifty per cent on canned salmon, canned lobsters, canned shrimps, canned corn, succotash, canned tomatoes, canned apples and other fruits (excepting peaches, pears, quinces, apricots, and cherries), windmills, dried or evaporated fruits, and paraffine wax.

"Twenty per cent on bacon, oatmeal, cracked wheat, hominy, corn grits, cornstarch (*maizena*), and other cereal foods, sail twine, and cotton rope.

"Fifteen per cent on white pine, spruce pine, Oregon pine, yellow pine, oak, and ash lumber, undressed.

"Six and one-quarter per cent on cottonseed oil."

It is provided that no lower duties shall be granted by either country on the articles in question than those granted by the United States to the Argentine Republic and by the Argentine Republic to the United States. Ratifications are to be exchanged seven months from date.

The treaty was conducted by Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, at Buenos Ayres, and has yet to be ratiffed by the United States Senate.

PROPOSED STEAMSHIP LINE TO RIO DE JANEIRO.

On November 15 a movement was inaugurated in the city of Philadelphia for the establishment of a regular line of steamers between that port and Rio de Janeiro. At a meeting of the Manufacturers' Club on the date named Capt. CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, Brazilian representative to the International Commercial Congress, made an address favoring the project. He devoted considerable time to showing that the President, Congress, and people generally of Brazil were desirous of establishing closer relations with the United States, believing that much benefit would accrue to both countries thereby. Speaking of the great importation of Brazilian coffee by the United States, he said:

"It seems almost impossible to believe that with these enormous imports there is not a single vessel of the United States plying between the two countries. It is certainly essential, if they wish to continue this trade and have it increase in proper proportion, that something must be done immediately to place the United States on a proper footing. This something should be transportation lines, banking facilities, and increased alertness on the part of the United States merchants.

"Not less in importance to imports are your exports. You have not at all encouraged this part of your business with Brazil, though it needs but a glance to show that large amounts of your goods could be sent to Brazil if there were proper vessels for carrying them and improved systems of international exchange. Brazil can use great quantities of your products, and among them, as a mere suggestion, I might mention wheat flour, mineral oils, iron, steel, coal, dry goods, machinery, and manufactured articles in general."

Others speaking in the same line were JOHN J. GORDON, ALBERT LUCAS, and WILLIAM C. BULLITT. As citizens of Philadelphia, they favored the early establishment of a line of steamers from that city, the corporation to have its headquarters there, and be operated by United States capital. Committees have been appointed to canvass the field and take the matter actively in hand.

RECENT DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

Hon. A. M. BEAUPRE, Secretary of the Legation and United States Consul-General at Guatemala City, has been transferred to Bogotá, Republic of Colombia, where he will hold the same official positions. Judge J. C. MCNALLY, who was formerly Consul-General and Secretary of the Legation of the United States at Bogotá, takes the same offices in Guatemala. Mr. BEAUPRE, in an interview, declared it as his judgment that there should be a resident Minister and Consul-General of the United States in each of the Latin-American Republics, instead of accrediting one to two countries, as is now the case in some instances. He added that he was of the opinion that Congress would take this view and make provision accordingly.

INVOICES OF GOODS FROM MEXICO.

On November 18, 1899, the Secretary of the Treasury sent the following communication to the Secretary of State with reference to goods imported from Mexico for shipment to Europe:

* * * "I have to state that no merchandise can be shipped as in transit through the United States from Mexico. Free goods on arrival at the frontier port from Mexico must be entered for consumption. Dutiable goods arriving from Mexico for exportation may be entered for warehouse and transportation to the port of exit, and there entered for rewarehouse and exportation, but the production of a consular invoice is required in either case." * * *

INVALID INVOICES.

Under date of November 16, 1899, Hon. LYMAN J. GAGE, Secretary of the Treasury, in a communication addressed to the Secretary of State, says:

"Referring to your communication of the 13th instant, inclosing for my information copy of letter from Mr. L. T. ALVES DA HOBREYA, clerk in the Consulate-General of the United States at Rio de Janeiro,

stating that, in the absence on account of illness of the Vice-Consul-General and also of the Deputy Consul-General, he signed several invoices, Nos. 1012–1023, in order that the same might be sent on the steamer leaving before the signature of the Deputy Consul-General could be secured, I have the honor to invite your attention to an opinion of the Attorney-General (20 Atty. Gen. Op., 92), from which it appears that 'no person shall be permitted to exercise the office of Consul of the United States in any way who has not been authorized by Congress to do so.'

"The invoices referred to can only be treated as pro forma, with bond for the production of duly certified invoices."

EXPORTS OF CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND JEWELRY.

The "Jewelers' Circular" of November 22, 1899, calls attention to the growing popularity in foreign markets of the clocks, watches, and jewelry manufactured in the United States. This is well illustrated by the tables recently compiled showing the exports of these commodities during the last two fiscal years.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, the total exports of clocks amounted to $1,043,621, as against a total of $953,557 for the preceding fiscal year. Watches to the value of $819,810 were exported during the fiscal year of 1899, which was a gain of $47,898 over the previous year. Exports of jewelry amounted to $729,194 in 1899, as against $555,719 in 1898. With regard to other manufactures of gold and silver, there was an increase from $192,061 in 1898 to $233,962 in 1899. But a few years ago the United States imported a great proportion of the clocks, watches, and jewelry in use.

INSPECTION SYSTEM INDORSED.

A report received by the German Government acknowledges the excellent system of the United States official trichinæ inspection as carried out in Chicago and elsewhere. The report also delares that the agrarian charges (in Germany) as to the unreliability of the inspection are not borne out by facts.

A dispatch from Berlin, dated December 4, 1899, states that the "Meat Inspection Bill," which was regarded as hostile to United States products, and which was to have been taken up by the Reichstag on that day, was postponed indefinitely at the instigation of the Foreign Office.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A dispatch dated Philadelphia, November 30, 1899, says the total coinage at the United States mint in that city in November was $3,046,070, which represents 19,415,240 separate coins. Of the gold coins to the value of $1,608,700, there were 107,420 eagles, 99,300 half eagles, and 1,520 quarter eagles. In silver there was a total of $1,182,000 coined, 1,142,000 being half-dollar pieces, 1,508,000 quarters, and

2,340,000 dimes. The month's coinage of nickels (5-cent pieces) was valued at $141,500, while 11,387,000 pennies (1-cent pieces) were made.

The Central American Steamship Company has been incorporated at Mobile, Alabama, with a capital stock of $40,000. The directors are E. E. WOGAR and J. D. VICTOR, of Mobile, and SALVADORE D. and JOHN B. CEFALU, of New Orleans. This company will operate steamship lines from the fruit districts in the Central American countries and the South American Republics which border on the Caribbean Sea.

The President has recognized the following consular officers from Latin America: MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ NATER, Consul for Chile at San Juan, Porto Rico; W. P. WILSON, Consul for Chile at Philadelphia; EDUARDO KATENGALL, Consul for Nicaragua at New York; GUSTAVO V. BRECHT, Consul for the Argentine Republic at St. Louis; CLIFFORD S. WALTON, Consul for Peru at Washington, D.C.

The Mexican and Northern Steamship Company was incorporated in November under the laws of the State of West Virginia with a capital stock of $500,000. The intention of this company is to establish a fleet of steamers to carry coal from Baltimore, Maryland, to Tampico, Mexico.

A convention for the purpose of forming a national association of the growers and shippers of farm produce and fruits of the United States has been called to meet in Kansas City, Missouri, January 16, 1900. It will remain in session so long as may be necessary to transact the business calling it together.

URUGUAY.

FOREIGN TRADE TO JULY 1, 1899.

The "Montevideo Times" publishes the following table of the foreign trade of the Republic for the first six months of 1899, as compared with similar periods of 1898 and 1897, amounts being presumably in Uruguayan currency, a dollar (*peso*) being equal to $1.034 in United States currency:

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.
IMPORTS.			
Beverages	$1,263,627	$1,475,971	$1,240,867
Comestibles, cereals, and spices	1,836,918	2,237,593	2,401,965
Tobaccos and cigars	92,612	111,521	123,300
Stuffs and woven goods	1,633,815	2,587,406	2,533,098
Ready-made clothing	439,182	743,541	730,747
Raw and industrial material and machinery	2,445,036	3,136,235	3,046,789
Live stock	477,332	1,658,009	1,603,781
Miscellaneous	1,082,683	1,314,096	1,283,216
Total	9,271,205	13,246,372	12,963,763

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.
EXPORTS.			
Live stock	$626,649	$224,704	$233,699
Slaughter house products	16,017,486	14,922,467	19,586,571
Agricultural products	684,963	2,958,412	1,622,781
Other products	155,189	102,414	116,239
Provisions for vessels	46,727	42,029	45,842
Total	17,527,944	18,250,026	21,605,123

DIRECT EXPORTATION OF CATTLE.

Under date of October 14, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a translation of an article from the "Montevideo Tribune," of October 13, showing that it was proposed to make Montevideo a port of shipment of live stock, and that as soon as solicited concessions are granted by the Government a new line of steamers for transporting live stock will be put in operation between Montevideo and ports of Uruguay and Montevideo and European ports. The translation referred to reads as follows:

"Up to the present time the exportation of cattle in the River Plate was done only at ports of the Argentine Republic, principally through that of Buenos Ayres, the live stock from Uruguay nearly always going there, thence to Europe and elsewhere. But the "Company of Navigation for Exporting Cattle and Cattle Products," established in Buenos Ayres, proposes to extend its service to the port of Montevideo, and with this motive will present to the Executive Power the basis of a contract to establish a line of special steamers for the transportation of cattle. These steamers will run between Montevideo and the ports of Brazil and Europe. The company named will build, within the period of five years, five steamers and two steam lighters. The steamers will be of steel with double bottom, of a gross capacity of 4,000 tons each, and will carry 300 steers and 1,000 sheep. Each steamer will be provided with refrigerators of the best kind. The plans will be presented before six months for approval, and twelve months after they are approved the first steamer will be ready to launch."

CULTIVATION OF THE VINE.

From a report to the Director of the Bureau of Live Stock and Agriculture of Uruguay in September last, published in the "Anales del Departmento de Ganadería y Agricultura," which report gives the results of an investigation of the vineyards in the departments of Montevideo and Canelones in the months of July and August, 1899, undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the progress that has been made in the last two years in restoring the vineyards attacked before that time by the dreaded phylloxera, it appears that in the department of Canelones in the years 1896–97 there were 230,200 American vines in nurseries and 617,800 at the end of August, 1899. The number of vines

transplanted and growing were for the two first-named years 149,000 and for the latter period 196,334. The amount of grapes produced in this department increased in 1899 to the large figure of 383,530 kilograms, and the wine produced was 299,000 liters, which quantities show that the phylloxera pest in place of reducing the annual production has, on the contrary, increased it, owing to the restoration of vineyards and augmented acreage devoted to viticulture.

In the department of Montevideo the plants in nurseries in 1896–97 were 1,288,800 of the American variety, and 2,826,100 in 1899. The American vines transplanted in 1896–97 were 262,900, and in 1899 104,300; the smallness for this latter year as compared with the former is due to grafting, there having been 12,700 vines grafted in the nurseries and 379,784 in the vineyards. The grape production in 1896 and 1897 was 938,400 kilos, and the wine production 364,850 liters. For the present year there were 1,481,740 kilos of grapes produced and 569,600 liters of wine. From the figures it may be seen that the vineyards in both Departments have improved in production notwithstanding the phylloxera, which improvement is due to the restoration of the vines and the increase in the number of vineyards.

SUPERVISION OF CONSULS IN CUBA.

Señor PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of the Republic of Uruguay in the United States, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that all Consuls and Vice-Consuls representing Uruguay in Cuba have been placed under his supervision. Señor MURGUIONDO has accordingly asked the Government of the United States for proper exequaturs.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Chamber of Deputies has, according to a recent German consular report, accepted the plan of M. GUERRARD for the new harbor at Montevideo. An additional export duty of 1 per cent has been imposed, and the additional import duty has been raised to 3 per cent, the latter to be enforced January 1. This creates a fund of about $1,000,000 yearly to be employed in payment of cost of construction, which is estimated at $12,500,000.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have been advised that the sum of £36,850 17s. 4d. (45 per cent of customs receipts for October) have been set aside for the payment of the 3½ per cent debt.

A new theater, with a seating capacity of 3,000 persons, is to be built in Montevideo, and a Coliseum, with a seating capacity of 4,000, is also to be erected.

VENEZUELA.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTER ANDRADE.

A dispatch dated Caracas, November 29, 1899, stated that Señor Don JOSÉ ANDRADE, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, had cabled his resignation from Paris, France, where he has been also accredited for some time. It was added that the resignation had been accepted.

Señor JOSÉ ANDRADE is a brother of the ex-President of Venezuela, Gen. IGNACIO ANDRADE, and is descended from one of the oldest and most celebrated families of that country, which has in the past distinguished itself in the priesthood, in law, in military affairs, and in politics. His father was a patriot in the civil war, and his grandfather was a friend and companion in arms of the great "Liberator," SIMÓN BOLÍVAR.

Señor JOSÉ ANDRADE has traveled extensively and is an accomplished linguist. While still a young man he began his political career, and has held nearly every office in the gift of his Government. His life has been full of interesting experiences and adventures. He has represented Venezuela in the United States since 1893. He was always a firm friend of the Bureau of the American Republics, and as a member of the Executive Committee rendered it valuable service.

RESTORATION OF THE TARIFF OF 1898.

A dispatch from Caracas, dated November 15, 1899, stated that a decree appeared in the "Official Gazette" of November 14, announcing that the customs tariff which came into effect September 1, 1899, was repealed, and that the tariff of 1898 should alone be applied. It was added that United States exporters should be guided accordingly.

The tariff which went into effect on September 1, 1899, imposed a general increase of duty of 20 per cent on all goods with the exception of kerosene oil, the duty of which was reduced one-half (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899, p. 2200). The full text of the Tariff Decree of 1897–98 was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for February, March, and April, 1898.

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

As may be seen by reference to the report of the Director of the Bureau, published elsewhere in this issue, as a further means of extending the sources of information of the Bureau of the American Republics and of making its MONTHLY BULLETIN a true reflex of the conditions prevailing in all the countries comprising the International Union, the

cooperation of prominent and trustworthy persons in the various capitals of the Latin American Republics, in the capacity of "Honorary Corresponding Members of the Union," has been sought. The diplomatic representatives of these Republics at Washington have courteously extended their assistance in suggesting the names and securing the services of these corresponding members, and the BULLETIN takes pleasure in announcing that up to the time of this issue seven gentlemen have kindly consented to give their valuable aid to the promotion of the ends for which the Union and the Bureau were formed. The nature of the information which will be furnished by the corresponding members, and from time to time published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, will cover a wide range of subjects, such as commerce, industry, resources, laws, budgets, geographical data, discoveries, explorations, publications of a scientific or literary character appearing periodically, and any other subject that may extend a knowledge of economic conditions and resources, as well as show the progress in every field of endeavor in the countries maintaining the Union. This is a departure which can not but be hailed with pleasure by the readers of the BULLETIN, and which will, when each of the countries of Latin America shall have a correspondent at its capital, make of it something unique among publications.

The high character and prominent position occupied by the gentlemen who have consented to act as corresponding members may be judged from the short biographical notes appended. Guatemala will be represented by Señor Don ANTONIO BATRES JÁUREGUI and Señor Don RAFAEL MONTÚFAR. The former of these gentlemen is a lawyer, litterateur, and diplomat, and was born in the city of Guatemala on September 11, 1847. He has followed the diplomatic career from Attaché to the Guatemalan Legation in Washington to Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of four of the Central American Republics near the Government of the United States. At home he has been Minister of Foreign Relations, of Public Instruction, and of the Interior, President of the Council of State, a Deputy in several Legislatures, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As a litterateur he has written much, having eight or ten works to his credit, among them being "La Historia de los Indios," "Biografías de Literatos Nacionales," "Memorias de Antaño," and "Los Vicios del Lenguaje y Provincialismos de Guatemala." He is a notable orator, and has occupied in the School of Law of Guatemala the chairs of Spanish and American Literature of Mercantile Law, of Political Economy, and of Roman Law. He is a corresponding member of the Spanish Royal Academy, of the Madrid Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation, of the Society of Comparative Legislation of France, and belongs to other scientific and literary bodies.

Don RAFAEL MONTÚFAR is a lawyer and statesman, the son of the great Guatemalan diplomatist and historian, LORENZO MONTÚFAR Y RIVERA MAESTRE. He was born in Costa Rica on August 14, 1857,

where he studied philosophy and began his legal course. His family returning to Guatemala, he was appointed Second Secretary of the Guatemalan Legation in Mexico, which position he resigned to continue his law studies. He was admitted to the bar, and at once appointed Assistant Secretary of Foreign Relations, which position he held until 1882, when he resigned and returned to Costa Rica, practicing his profession and writing for the press, which he also did in Salvador. In 1887 he was elected Deputy to the Constitutional Legislature of Guatemala, and was elected secretary of that body. He next discharged the duties of Assistant Secretary of Public Works, of the Treasury, and was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice. In 1892 he was named by the Government of Guatemala to go to Mexico as its representative on the commission established to adjust the claims between the two countries. Having honorably discharged this duty, he returned to Guatemala and entered upon the practice of his profession, which he still pursues in the city of Guatemala, occupying a prominent place in politics, literature, and law.

Mexico will be represented by Señor Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, Don ANTONIO GARCÍA CUBAS, and Don F. FERRARI PÉREZ. The BULLETIN is able, unfortunately, to furnish a biographical sketch of but one of these gentlemen at this time, but hopes to remedy the omission in the January issue. Don ANTONIO GARCÍA CUBAS is a prominent Mexican engineer and geographer. He was born on July 24, 1832. Before receiving his degree of engineer he devoted himself to geographical studies and to contributing to the periodical press, as well as to the societies of which he was a member, the fruits of his scientific investigations, which have given him a deservedly prominent place among intellectual Mexicans. Since 1853 he has been publishing geographical charts of the Republic, his most important work in this line being the "Atlas Geográfico, Estadístico, Histórico y Pintoresco de la República Mexicana," with fourteen beautifully printed maps. He has also published several text-books, such as "Elementos de Geografía," "Geometría," and a large number of scientific works for the general public, which have always deserved well of the learned. Señor GARCÍA CUBAS has been the director of the National School of Commerce, a professor in institutions of learning of the Government, and is now also Engineer to the Department of Foreign Relations. This distinguished engineer is a member of several scientific societies of his own country and of foreign countries.

All that the BULLETIN can say at this time of the other two gentlemen from Mexico is that Señor FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA is the legal adviser to the Department of Foreign Relations and that Señor FERNANDO FERRARI PÉREZ, a naturalist, is the Director of the Museum of Natural History located at Tacubaya, in the Federal District, on the outskirts of the City of Mexico.

Monsieur GEORGES SYLVAIN, who represents Haiti as correspondent,

is at present one of the justices of the Court of Cassation and Secretary-General of the Société de Législation of Port au Prince. He was educated in Paris and received his B. A. degree there. He then took the law course of the Faculté de Droit of Paris, and after a brilliant examination received his diploma as a licentiate in law. Returning to Haiti, he became a member of the bar of Port au Prince. The Government was not long in appointing him Professor of Roman Law at the National School of Law of Port au Prince. M. SYLVAIN resigned the chair of Roman Law to become a Chief of Division in the Ministry of Public Instruction. He is a distinguished publicist and litterateur.

General Don MANUEL LANDAETA ROSÁLES, is the correspondent from Caracas, Venezuela. A short sketch of his career will appear in a future number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

It is a matter of gratulation to the MONTHLY BULLETIN that it has so many friends among the press of the United States and the younger Republics beyond the Rio Grande. These friends, mostly serious and sedate commercial journals, have so assisted and are so assisting the BULLETIN in its efforts to disseminate a knowledge of each of the countries forming the International Union in all the others by copying articles on every subject and in every language within the scope of its programme that it were ill-timed and captious to dwell upon the fact that in nearly every instance, through oversight, or overzeal perhaps, no mention is made of the source of information. Every month's issue of the BULLETIN contains articles upon special subjects relating to the independent Republics of the Western World, and with rare good taste and better furtherance of its plans its contemporaries from the Great Lakes to the bleak shores of Sandy Point publish them without change of dot or comma or disguising quotation marks. These articles come back under the ken of the BULLETIN, absolutely unchanged and unaltered, in the form of leading editorials, special matter, news items, and even "Consular Reports" to Old World Governments—a high compliment to the Bureau of the American Republics, which is so efficiently performing its allotted task.

The BULLETIN thanks its contemporaries for these signal evidences of their confidence, and would only add that, as it publishes nothing but a few miscellaneous notes without citing the authority, it might be better for the contemporaries of the BULLETIN in the various countries forming the International Union, of which it is the organ, to furnish their readers with the source of their information, with the twofold object of assisting in the great work for which the Bureau was founded and of imprinting a trustworthy and official character upon their reproductions.

THE COSTA RICA–NICARAGUA BOUNDARY LINE.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received from Señor J. B. CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Costa Rica, the annexed English text of "Award No. 4," made by the "Engineer Arbitrator," Gen. E. P. ALEXANDER, who was appointed, with the approval of the two Governments concerned, by President CLEVELAND.

The terms of the convention for the demarcation of the boundary lines were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for April, 1897.

The present report bears date of July 26, 1899, and, in addressing the boundary commissions of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, General ALEXANDER says:

"As the arbitrator of whatever points of difference may arise between your two bodies in tracing and marking the boundary lines between the Republics you represent, I am called upon to decide the following question:

"What level of its waters shall be taken to determine the shore line of Lake Nicaragua, parallel to which and 2 miles distant therefrom the boundary line must be traced, from near the San Juan River to the Sapoa?

"It willfacilitate discussion to define in advance the principal levels which must be frequently referred to. Under the influence of rainy seasons of about seven months and dry seasons of about five the level of Lake Nicaragua is in constant fluctuation. We shall have to discuss five different stages.

"First. Extreme high-water; the level reached only in years of maximum rainfall or some extraordinary conditions.

"Second. Mean high water; the average high level of average years.

"Third. Mean low water; the average low level of average years.

"Fourth. Extreme low water; the lowest level reached in years of minimum rainfall or other extraordinary conditions.

"Fifth. Mean water; the average between mean high water and mean low water.

"The argument presented to me in behalf of Nicaragua claims that the level to be adopted in this case should be the first level named, to wit, extreme high water. It argues that this line, and this line alone, is the true limit of what the argument calls the bed of the lake. Costa Rica claims the adoption of the third level, to wit, mean low water. This is argued principally upon two grounds: First, it is shown by a great number of legal decisions that in most States all water boundaries are invariably held to run at either extreme or mean low water. Second, it is claimed that in case of any doubt Costa Rica is entitled to its benefit, as she is conceding territory geographically hers.

"I will begin with Costa Rica's first argument. The equity of adopt-

ing a low-water line in the case of all water boundaries is readily admitted, even though instances of contrary practice exist.

"Between all permanent lands and permanent waters usually runs a strip of land, sometimes dry and sometimes submerged. We may call it, for short, semisubmerged. Its value for ordinary purposes is much diminished by its liability to overflow, but, as an adjunct to the permanent land, it possesses often very great value. If the owner of the permanent land can fence across the semisubmerged he may save fencing his entire water front. He also can utilize whatever agricultural value may be in the semisubmerged land in dry seasons. Both of these values would be destroyed and wasted if the ownership were conferred upon the owner of the water. Therefore equity always, and law generally, confers it upon the owner of the permanent land.

"I recognized and followed this principle in my award, No. 3, where I held that the boundary line following the right bank of the San Juan River, below Castillo, follows the lowest water mark of a navigable stage of river. And, if now the lake shore were itself to be the boundary of Costa Rica, I would not hesitate to declare that the semisubmerged land went with the permanent land and carried her limits at least to the mean low-water line.

"But this case is not one of a water boundary; nor is it at all similar, or on all fours with one, for none of the equities above set forth have any application. It is a case of rare and singular occurrence and without precedent within my knowledge. A water line is in question, but not as a boundary. It is only to furnish starting points whence to measure off a certain strip of territory. Clearly the case stands alone, and must be governed strictly by the instrument under which it has arisen. That is the treaty of 1858, and its language is as follows:

"'Thence the line shall continue toward the river Sapoa, which discharges into the Lake of Nicaragua, following a course which is distant always 2 miles from the right bank of the river San Juan, with its sinuosities, up to its origin at the lake, and from the right bank of the lake itself up to the said river Sapoa, where this line parallel to the said banks will terminate.'

"The principles upon which the language and intent of treaties are to be interpreted are well set forth in the Costa Rican argument by many quotations from eminent authors. All concur that words are to be taken as far as possible in their first and simplest meanings—'in their natural and obvious sense, according to the general use of the same words;' 'in the natural and reasonable sense of the terms;' 'in the usual sense, and not in any extraordinary or unused acceptation.'

"We must suppose that the language of the treaty above quoted suggested to its framers some very definite picture of the lake with its banks and of the 2-mile strip of territory. It evidently seemed to them all so simple and obvious that no further words were necessary. Let us first call up pictures of the lake at different levels and see which seems the most natural, obvious, and reasonable.

"The very effort to call up a picture of the lake at either extreme high water or at extreme low water seems to me immediately to rule both of these levels out of further consideration. Both seem unnatural conditions, and I must believe that had either been intended additional details would have been given.

"Next, is the mean low-water mark the first, most obvious, and natural picture called up by the expression 'the bank of the lake?' It seems to me decidedly not. During about eleven months of the year this line is submerged, invisible, and inaccessible. It seems rather a technical line than a natural one. The idea of a bank is of water limited by dry land with some elements of permanency about it. Even during the brief period when the line is uncovered the idea of it is suggestive far more of mud and aquatic growths than of dry land and forest growths.

"To my mind, the natural, simple, and obvious idea of the bank of a lake in this climate is presented only by the line of mean high water. Here we would first find permanent dry ground every day of an average year. Here an observer, during every annual round of ordinary seasons, would see the water advance to his very feet and then recede, as if some power had drawn the line and said to the waters, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.' Here the struggle between forest growths and aquatic vegetation begins to change the landscape. Here lines of drift, the flotsam and jetsam of the waves, naturally suggest the limits of the 'bed of the lake.'

"One level of the lake remains for discussion, the mean level, or average of all waters. In a different climate, where the rainfall is more uniformly distributed throughout the year, the mean high-water and mean low-water lines, with all their respective features, would approach each other, tending to finally merge in the line of mean water. But, where wet and dry seasons prevail, as in the present case, the line of mean water is destitute of all obvious features, and is submerged for many months of the year. It is purely a technical and not a natural line, and is not to be understood where not expressly called for.

"In argument against Nicaragua's claim of the extreme high-water line, Costa Rica appeals to the general custom of geographers and scientific men in making ordinary topographical maps, who never adopt the extreme lines of overflows for the outlines of lakes. This argument of general custom has great weight, but it is equally against Costa Rica's claim for the mean low-water line. Wherever wet and dry seasons prevail, general custom treats mean high water as the normal state, always to be understood where no other level is expressed, and its line is assumed as the lake boundary in all ordinary topographical maps. Two quotations from Commander LULL'S report of his Nicaraguan Canal survey will illustrate (Report Secretary of the Navy, 1873, p. 187):

"'In a survey made by Mr. JOHN BAILY, many years since, that

gentleman professed to have found a pass with but 56 feet above the lake level, but the most of his statements are found to be entirely unreliable. * * * For example, he finds Lake Nicaragua to be 121 feet above mean tide in the Pacific, while the true difference of level is but 107 feet.' (Ibid., p. 199.)

"'The surface of Lake Nicaragua is 107 feet above mean tide in either sea.'

"From comparison of this level with the levels found by other surveys, there is no question that this figure was LULL'S estimate of mean high water, as shown by his line of levels.

"From every consideration of the lake, therefore, I am driven to conclude that the shore line of the lake contemplated in the treaty is the mean high-water line.

"I am led to the same conclusion also from the standpoint of the 2-mile-wide strip of territory.

"The treaty gives no intimation as to the purpose of this concession, and we have no right to assume one, either political or commercial. We have only to observe the two conditions put upon the strip in the treaty. Under all ordinary conditions it must be land, and 2 miles wide. This would not be the case if we adopted the line of either mean low water or mean water. In the former case the strip would be too narrow for about eleven months of an ordinary year; in the latter case for about five months.

"Without doubt, then, I conclude that mean high-water mark determines the shore of the lake; and it now remains to designate that level and how it shall be found.

"Several surveys of the proposed Nicaraguan Canal route, besides that of Commander LULL above quoted, have been made within the last fifty years. Each found a certain mean high level of the lake, and it might seem a simple solution to take an average of them all; but, as each adopted its own bench mark on the ocean and ran its own line of levels to the lake, I have no means of bringing their figures to a common standard. It seems best, therefore, to adopt the figures of that one which is at once the latest and most thorough, which has enjoyed the benefit of all of the investigations of all of its predecessors, and whose bench marks on the lake are known and can be referred to. That is the survey, still in progress, under the direction of the United States Canal Commission. Its results have not yet been made public, but, by the courtesy of Rear-Admiral J. G. WALKER, President of the Commission, I am informed of them in a letter dated July 10, 1899, from which I quote:

"'In reply I am cabling you to-day as follows: "Alexander, Greytown, six;" the six meaning, as per your letter, 106 as mean high level of lake. This elevation of 106 is, to the best of our knowledge (Mr. DAVIS, our hydrographer), the mean high water for a number of years. * * *

"'The highest level of the lake in 1898 was 106.7, last of November. The elevation of our bench mark on inshore end of boiler at San Carlos is 109.37.' * * *

"A complete copy of this letter will be handed you, and also blue prints of the maps made by the Commission of the lower end of the lake, which may facilitate your work.

"As this Commission is the highest existing authority, I adopt its finding, and announce my award as follows:

"The shore line of Lake Nicaragua, at the level of 106 feet, by the bench marks of the United States Nicaragua Canal Commission, shall be taken as the bank of said lake referred to in the treaty of 1858."

THE WORLD'S OUTPUT OF COAL.

Under the caption "Another Look at the Coal Question," the "Iron and Coal Trades Review," of London, for November 3, 1899, contains an article on the production of coal throughout the world. In this it is said that "some time ago certain writers called attention to the subject of the threatened proximate scarcity of coal in some of our principal coal fields, and especially in those that appeared to be incapable of greatly extended development. That scarcity is to-day almost an accomplished fact. We have heard of a number of excellent contracts that have gone a-begging because coal owners could not undertake to deliver within a reasonable time. Practically every coal-producing firm in the country has its hands full for a considerable time to come. Pressure is being brought to bear * * * to secure early and regular deliveries. The resources of production in every coal field are being taxed to the utmost. Manufacturing and coking coal is really scarce. * * * This is not a condition of things peculiar to our own country. All over the world there appears to be a remarkably active demand for fuel and an unprecedentedly large consumption. In Germany, France, and Belgium the utmost efforts of coal producers fail to keep the supply abreast of the demand. On all hands there are calls for more coal. The scarcity of home supplies is being to some extent compensated by larger imports from our own country, and hence the fact that for the last ten months our exports have been by far the largest ever recorded.

"The extent to which the coal output of the world has increased within recent years is amazing and phenomenal. This applies * * * to the oldest monarchies of Europe as well as to the United States, Canada, the Australian Colonies, and the Cape. The United States is now running us very close for supremacy as a coal-raising nation, and probably would have left us behind years ago but for the fact that mineral was to a large extent displaced by gaseous and liquid fuel in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. As it is, the United States is likely

to catch us up before it has gone much farther, for its output of coal of all kinds is very near our own. Germany is making greater efforts to increase her output than she has ever before done, and will this year for the first time raise her output of bituminous coal alone to well over 100,000,000 tons. Russia is going ahead with much more activity and enterprise than she has hitherto been capable of, and so with most of the other coal-producing countries of the world, including the ancient monarchies of China and Japan." * * *

In connection with the article is a table giving the total output of coal in 1890 and 1898 and the probable yield in 1899 of the seven principal coal-producing countries of the world. This shows an increase from 454,000,000 tons in 1890 to 565,000,000 tons in 1898 and a possible output of from 610,000,000 tons to 615,000,000 tons in 1899. The several countries are credited with the following amounts:

Country.	1890.	1898.	1899.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Great Britain	181, 611, 000	202, 024, 000	220, 000, 000
United States	140, 883, 000	196, 000, 000	208, 000, 000
Germany	70, 238, 000	99, 280, 000	110, 000, 000
France	25, 591, 000	27, 000, 000	30, 000, 000
Belgium	20, 366, 000	20, 075, 000	22, 000, 000
Russia	5, 998, 000	10, 000, 000	12, 000, 000
Austria-Hungary	9, 926, 000	11, 200, 000	12, 500, 000

The production of other countries is given as 13,104,000 tons in 1890, 4,700,000 (incomplete) in 1898, and 18,000,000 (incomplete) in 1899.

THE PAN-AMERICAN RAILWAY.

In the "Cosmopolitan Magazine" for December, Mr. WALTER C. HAMM contributes an article entitled "Great Engineering Projects," in which he gives an interesting account of the achievements of engineering and its victories over nature during the nineteenth century. He says that the two great material conquests have been the construction of the Pacific Railroad and the building of the Suez Canal. Among the grand and feasible projects which have been presented he enumerates the International American Railway, of which he says: "The Pan-American Railway, which is intended to connect North, Central, and South America, is a much greater enterprise than either the Siberian or the African Railway. In length it will almost equal the combined length of the Asiatic and African roads."

As now surveyed, from New York City to Buenos Ayres, it will be 10,221 miles long, and to finish and equip it will cost at least $200,000,000. This length and cost will also be increased when the line is extended through Patagonia to the southern limits of South America.

The complete surveys made by a commission appointed by Congress prove that a practicable route can be found and the road built within

a reasonable time. The route of this road can be traced on the map, while the following table shows the distances, the miles built, and the gaps to be filled:

	Built.	Proposed.	Total.
United States	2,094	.....	2,094
Mexico	1,183	461	1,644
Total North America	3,277	461	3,738
Guatemala	43	126	169
San Salvador	64	166	230
Honduras	.....	71	71
Nicaragua	103	106	209
Costa Rica	.....	360	360
Total Central America	210	829	1,039
Colombia	.....	1,354	1,354
Ecuador	.....	658	658
Peru	151	1,633	1,784
Bolivia	195	392	587
Argentina	936	125	1,061
Total South America	1,282	4,769	5,444
Grand total	4,769	5,452	10,221

The demands of trade may compel early construction of this railroad. It is doubtful if a remunerative commerce can be built up between North and South America by ship. The conformation of the eastern coast of South America compels a long detour to the east, and brings a ship almost as near to the ports of Europe as to the ports of the United States. The exports of South America, being mainly agricultural, will find a readier sale in Europe than in this country, and when they are exchanged for the cheap manufactured goods of that continent the conditions for trade are supplied. If, for these reasons, this country can not build up a commerce with South America by water, a quicker means of transit must be had, such as the Pan-American Railway would provide.

The obstacles to be overcome are great. They surpass the difficulties in the way of the Siberian or the "Cape to Cairo" road, but the results will be correspondingly greater.

South America has greater undeveloped resources than any other continent. Its agricultural possibilities are boundless. It has the greatest rivers in the world; its soil can produce any crop grown on the earth, and its mines of gold, silver, and coal have been scarcely touched.

A railroad which would traverse the coffee lands of the Central American States, pass through the mines of Peru, and penetrate the rich pampas of Brazil and Argentina, must have great possibilities before it.

The products of the three great valleys of the Orinoco, the Amazon, and the Paraguay rivers would find a market by means of it, and the riches of the mines of the Incas be shown to surpass those of California and South Africa.

PAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE, 1889–98.

Value of the principal imports of the United States from Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, from 1889 to 1898, inclusive.

Countries.	Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.	Cocoa and leaves and shells.	Coffee.	Fruits, including nuts.	Hides and skins other than fur skins.	India rubber.
Costa Rica	.....	.....	$20,988,185	$3,614,469	$557,564	$175,632
Guatemala	.....	.....	21,260,639	993,522	520,201	442,615
Honduras	$479,532	.....	832,493	6,336,581	429,158	761,607
Nicaragua	.....	.....	3,797,301	4,242,084	1,075,567	4,263,571
Salvador	360,770	.....	16,936,588	.....	141,204	113,750
Mexico	14,284,185	.....	45,036,234	.....	15,438,287	.....
Haiti	7,437,332	.....	12,161,228	.....	225,648	.....
Santo Domingo	750,292	.....	532,236	.....	658,941	.....
Cuba	1,356,769	.....	.....	14,224,079	2,560,484	.....
Porto Rico	.....	.....	442,873	257,095	.....	.....
Argentina	.....	.....	.....	.....	35,207,690	.....
Bolivia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brazil	827,365	$3,858,063	574,093,473	2,410,280	20,700,676	115,284,434
Chile	33,720,749	.....	.....	.....	277,415	.....
Colombia	422,798	620,328	21,613,377	6,301,117	4,698,758	2,563,601
Ecuador	.....	2,691,785	1,192,034	.....	916,218	2,470,718
British Guiana	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dutch Guiana	.....	5,579,429	.....	.....	.....	.....
French Guiana	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peru	569,234	.....	.....	.....	2,240,690	.....
Uruguay	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,480,132	.....
Venezuela	707,860	1,256,407	71,334,684	.....	8,409,659	470,153
Total	60,916,886	14,006,012	790,221,345	38,379,227	108,538,292	126,546,081

Countries.	Sugar and molases.	Tobacco, unmanufactured.	Wood, unmanufactured.	Wool.	Total.
Costa Rica	.....	.....	$137,705	.....	$25,473,555
Guatemala	.....	.....	.....	.....	23,216,977
Honduras	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,839,371
Nicaragua	.....	.....	1,043,201	.....	14,421,724
Salvador	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,552,312
Mexico	.....	.....	5,016,063	.....	79,774,769
Haiti	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,824,208
Santo Domingo	$7,889,975	.....	.....	.....	9,824,208
Cuba	401,238,584	$91,847,716	5,042,330	.....	516,269,962
Porto Rico	28,631,762	.....	.....	.....	29,331,730
Argentina	.....	.....	.....	$18,880,552	54,088,242
Bolivia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brazil	35,691,188	.....	.....	.....	752,865,479
Chile	.....	.....	.....	1,807,070	35,805,234
Colombia	.....	.....	1,404,566	.....	37,624,545
Ecuador	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,270,755
British Guiana	39,926,514	.....	.....	.....	39,926,514
Dutch Guiana	2,860,890	.....	.....	.....	8,440,319
French Guiana	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peru	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,809,924
Uruguay	.....	.....	.....	5,344,851	19,824,983
Venezuela	.....	.....	.....	.....	82,178,763
Total	516,238,013	91,847,716	12,643,865	26,032,473	1,785,369,910

Value of the principal exports of the United States to Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, from 1889 to 1898, inclusive.

Countries.	Agricultural implements.	Animals.	Books, maps, engravings, etc.	Breadstuffs.	Carriages, cars, etc.
Costa Rica				$2,140,319	$174,045
Guatemala		$382,254	$239,517	4,682,855	603,147
Honduras				699,334	
Nicaragua				1,533,909	
Salvador			97,403	2,858,828	
Mexico		4,855,199		12,983,281	4,350,531
Haiti				8,572,835	336,567
Santo Domingo				1,825,091	
Cuba	$676,025		642,024	17,626,590	2,967,995
Porto Rico					
Argentina	8,489,528		488,342		3,189,276
Bolivia					
Brazil			1,884,473	40,095,274	5,246,642
Chile	1,149,716		260,397		
Colombia			765,500	4,450,146	320,770
Ecuador				981,801	
British Guiana		368,880		7,289,855	
Dutch Guiana				860,559	
French Guiana				229,486	
Peru					
Uruguay	1,231,069				
Venezuela				10,159,890	
Total	11,546,338	5,606,333	4,377,656	116,990,052	17,188,973

Countries.	Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.	Coal.	Cotton, manufactures of.	Fish.	Gunpowder and other explosives.
Costa Rica	$399,895		$16,261,968	$234,564	
Guatemala	577,188		1,112,915		$327,118
Honduras	293,961		1,264,369		214,959
Nicaragua	605,062	$165,259	928,329	127,270	167,738
Salvador	557,279		1,557,688		231,248
Mexico	4,166,046	5,741,162	22,219,122		5,081,303
Haiti			5,722,187	5,233,617	
Santo Domingo			1,183,018	595,974	
Cuba	2,530,228	7,772,605	973,375		
Porto Rico		445,027	200,185		
Argentina	1,336,513		3,059,616		
Bolivia			39,432		
Brazil	2,416,708	691,277	9,704,629		404,218
Chile	891,060		5,825,515	396,364	
Colombia	1,639,850	816,393	2,963,944	419,678	331,337
Ecuador	325,873		695,893		
British Guiana	277,759		300,876		
Dutch Guiana				366,273	
French Guiana				175,600	
Peru	478,747				
Uruguay	471,693		1,071,451		
Venezuela	1,521,792		4,814,241		
Total	18,489,654	15,631,723	79,898,753	7,549,340	6,757,921

Value of the principal exports of the United States to Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, etc.—Continued.

Countries.	Iron and steel, manufactures of.	Leather, and manufactures of.	Oils, mineral.	Provisions.	Sugar and molasses.
Costa Rica	$1,795,730	$214,193	$156,940	$1,576,467	$155,697
Guatemala	401,731	226,052	335,283	1,053,302	.....
Honduras	962,696	108,862	95,259	303,839	152,626
Nicaragua	1,833,017	423,516	354,758	961,624	233,337
Salvador	2,299,393	.....	231,953	136,511	.....
Mexico	41,981,037	.....	4,990,779	4,402,473	.....
Haiti	1,448,797	453,087	437,280	13,215,446	892,311
Santo Domingo	2,605,653	.....	306,221	1,327,915	.....
Cuba	27,944,542	1,380,964	4,286,479	34,505,068	.....
Porto Rico	1,257,363	.....	475,045	6,568,831	.....
Argentina	7,681,669	.....	6,709,830	276,591	.....
Bolivia	33,209	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brazil	17,867,323	.....	12,585,885	18,733,414	.....
Chile	6,377,530	.....	3,233,811	542,323	.....
Colombia	5,731,499	478,675	813,533	2,389,124	988,256
Ecuador	1,406,232	.....	218,205	2,049,774	.....
British Guiana	.....	.....	538,880	4,750,356	.....
Dutch Guiana	.....	.....	177,223	1,285,419	.....
French Guiana	.....	.....	.....	423,920	.....
Peru	2,271,551	.....	528,612	847,885	.....
Uruguay	1,084,786	.....	3,232,520	236,801	18,876
Venezuela	3,862,677	.....	1,170,825	7,149,590	.....
Total	128,846,435	3,285,349	40,879,321	102,736,673	2,441,103

Countries.	Tobacco, and manufactures of.	Vegetables.	Wines and liquors.	Woods, and manufactures of.	Total.
Costa Rica	$464,830	$179,311	$297,594	$492,503	$24,544,056
Guatemala	.....	.....	661,211	1,822,466	12,425,039
Honduras	.....	.....	152,770	224,432	4,473,107
Nicaragua	165,798	294,315	393,100	539,920	8,726,952
Salvador	.....	.....	448,384	749,740	9,168,427
Mexico	1,182,716	245,992	1,614,744	13,982,053	127,796,438
Haiti	1,005,656	203,331	.....	2,822,418	40,342,532
Santo Domingo	.....	103,114	.....	1,131,835	9,078,821
Cuba	646,472	5,513,458	306,120	10,528,697	118,300,642
Porto Rico	.....	326,763	.....	3,087,929	12,361,143
Argentina	444,699	.....	.....	11,803,092	43,479,156
Bolivia	.....	.....	.....	.....	72,641
Brazil	.....	.....	.....	7,056,642	116,686,485
Chile	.....	.....	.....	3,737,740	22,414,456
Colombia	526,528	384,101	418,201	1,677,411	25,114,956
Ecuador	.....	.....	.....	451,874	6,129,652
British Guiana	492,795	164,869	.....	1,992,175	16,176,445
Dutch Guiana	94,789	.....	.....	174,836	2,959,099
French Guiana	44,742	.....	.....	161,114	1,034,862
Peru	.....	.....	.....	1,666,296	5,793,091
Uruguay	198,736	.....	.....	2,909,263	10,455,195
Venezuela	624,397	470,823	.....	2,909,263	32,683,498
Total	5,892,158	7,886,077	4,292,124	69,921,699	650,217,683

BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics will be treated under this caption in the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

"Exotische Werte" (Exotic Values) is the title of a series of publications by OTTO SCHMITZ, "presenting a clear statement of the financial situation, as well as of the commerce and economic conditions of those foreign States whose obligations are dealt in on the German Exchanges." The first volume, upon the "Finances of Mexico," appeared in 1894. (DUNCKER & HUMBLAT, Leipzig.)

The author states that during the period 1882–1892 the bonds of a number of foreign States had been offered for subscription in Germany to the extent of 20,700,000,000 marks, of which 5,300,000,000 were taken in that country. Among others were the following:

Country.	Offered.	Accepted.
	Marks.	*Marks.*
Argentine Republic	301, 396, 618	180, 119, 538
Brazil	520, 000, 000	14, 461, 000
Chile	30, 927, 840	12, 350, 790
China	5, 000, 000	5, 000, 000
Greece	568, 288, 000	210, 267, 920
Mexico	474, 293, 200	200, 112, 436
Roumania	560, 667, 455	284, 778, 925
Servia	147, 816, 000	57, 541, 558
Portugal	487, 807, 200	298, 337, 060

The object of Mr. SCHMITZ'S work is to furnish German investors with such facts about the countries, whose obligations are held by them, as will enable them to rapidly and easily inform themselves in the premises to the end that they will be in position to form their own opinions of values and prospects. In addition to the statistics taken from official and other authorities bearing upon the various phases of the subject, the author gives a review of the several sources of revenue of the Mexican Republic and, further, has a chapter upon the "Silver Crisis and its Effect upon Mexican Finance."

In 1895 Mr. SCHMITZ published his second work—this one upon the "Finances of the Argentine." The same general plan of investigation has been adhered to as in the first book, and all the facts are presented clearly and with an evident disposition to do full justice to the country. In his conclusions in regard to Mexico he spoke relatively in an encouraging manner of the future, and the correctness of his opinions, so far, has been well borne out. In speaking of the Argentine Republic, while the author does not allow himself to be too optimistic, he still advances the belief that the financial and economic situation in the La Plata States is fast getting to a healthy basis, even faster than was the case with Mexico. The opening of the new sources of riches in the Argentine Republic, such as grain and cattle raising, will naturally proceed faster than did the culture of tobacco and coffee in Mexico, and while Mexico may always suffer through a further decrease in the value of silver, upon which her currency is based, the Argentine Republic has it in her own hands, through careful banking and monetary laws, to increase the value of her money.

"McClure's Magazine" for December, 1899, contains an illustrated article by RAY STANNARD BAKER, entitled "The Movement of Wheat," referring particularly to the sources and volume of production, the machinery and methods of distribution, and the rapidity of consumption. The writer says there are now about 517,000,000 bread eaters in the world, and that each of these—man, woman, and child—consumes on an average a barrel of flour (4½ bushels of wheat) every year. The French, the English, and the citizens of the United States eat more

than the average. On the basis of this average, the bread-eating world requires more than 2,300,000,000 bushels of wheat each year. "If the wheat fields of the world produce as much as this, then there is plenty and prosperity the world over; if the production is less, there is suffering and starvation. Great Britain eats her entire wheat crop in thirteen weeks. If the United Kingdom could be completely blocked * * * her population would probably be totally extinguished by starvation within three months. The like is true of every country in Western Europe." The vast tides of wheat, generally speaking, set to the east and north—to the cities of the Old World from the United States, the Argentine Republic, and Chile—with lesser tides from the west and south.

China, which heretofore has been satisfied with a diet of rice, has of late acquired a taste for wheat flour, and, with all its inhabitants eating wheat bread, could consume the present world's crop and still go hungry. Europe, even including the crops from the vast fields of Russia, never produces enough wheat for her needs. If an open conflict between the United States and all of Europe should ever come to pass, the former might go far toward winning a victory by a mere stoppage of the tide of food supplies. Only five European countries produce more wheat than they use—Russia, Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumania—but their surplus would only be sufficient for Holland, Belgium, Scandinavia, and Switzerland. The United States, with its enormous crops, has become naturally the greatest of all traders. Some idea of the requirements of the United States alone may be seen from the following statistics: For feeding 74,000,000 of people (the estimated population in 1899), at 4½ bushels each, 333,000,000 bushels are required; for seeding 47,000,000 acres in wheat farms, at 1½ bushels to the acre, the requirements are 70,500,000 bushels, or a grand total of 403,500,000 bushels. Mr. BAKER'S article abounds in facts and figures, which are arranged in a manner calculated to instruct as well as entertain the reader, if, indeed, he is not at times startled at the vastness of the subject.

The "Revista del Instituto Paraguayo" (Review of the Paraguayan Institute) for July contains three extremely interesting papers on Paraguayan fauna, as follows: I, by ALBERTO PERUGIA; some fish taken in the Upper Paraguay by the Cav. GUIDO BOGGIANI. Specimens of these fish were sent to the Museum of Natural History of Genoa, and the article states that as two of the species are new to ichthyologists they are of great interest to scientists. All these fish were taken at Puerto 14 de Mayo, Department of Bahía Negra, in the Chaco Boreal, and a minute description of them is incorporated in the paper. In No. II, G. A. BOULLENGER, F. R. S., writes on a list of reptiles, batrachia, and fish taken by the same Italian scientist in the northern Chaco, and No. III is by MARTIN JACOBY, on new species of phytophagous coleopters of Paraguay. The papers can not fail to claim the attention of all who care for natural history.

In the same number of the "Revista" the initial chapters of a collection of documents relating to the history of America, and more particularly to that of Paraguay, appear under the title, "Colección de Documentos Relativos á la Historia de América y Particularmente á la Historia del Paraguay" (Documents Relative to the History of America in General and Paraguay in Particular). This work, although published by Don BLAS GARAY as separate from the "Revista," is nevertheless bound in with it. In the preliminary note to the opening chapters the author says that the collection of historical documents which is to be published was taken principally from the General Archives of the Indies of Seville; that the documents have not heretofore been published, and that they will all be inserted without any change of orthography, punctuation, etc., and without notes or comments, so as to leave each person who shall appeal to them at liberty to interpret them according to his own judgment. The documents as far as published contain historical, geographical, and ethnological notes of great importance, and, without doubt, when the entire work shall have been brought to light, it will be sought with avidity by historians and others taking an interest in the great southern half of the New World. The sixth chapter is a description of the River Plate, and chapter 7 is a narrative concerning the same, the former being from an undated document and the latter from one dated in 1545, both of which will be extremely pleasant reading to persons acquainted with the Spanish language and to whom historical researches appeal.

"Industrial Cuba;" being a study of present commercial and industrial conditions, with suggestions as to the opportunity presented in the island for American capital, enterprise, and labor. By ROBERT P. PORTER. (G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York and London, 1899). The author is one of the most indefatigable workers in the realm of investigation in this country, and, as Special Commissioner of the United States to Cuba and Porto Rico, has had abundant opportunity to inform himself at first hand upon all the varied conditions, so that his present work will serve as a guidebook of the highest order. He deals with living questions in Cuba, those which confront the United States in the reconstruction of the island. The measures inaugurated for the government of the island, which were based upon the author's reports to President MCKINLEY, were formed scrupulously in the interest of Cuba and not with a view of benefiting by discrimination the United States. The outlook for labor, the sanitary conditions of the cities—with special reference to the valuable report of the late Col. GEORGE E. WARING—the revenue, tobacco, sugar, and other topics are all brought under careful review. The author deprecates any wild speculative plunge, but suggests the following as some of the enterprises likely to be taken up by American and English capitalists:

Sanitary improvements and waterworks; street railways and light railway transportation in suburban districts; gasworks and electric

lighting; unifying and extension of railway systems; establishment of better facilities for coastwise transportation; navigation between Cuba and the United States; wharfage, lighterage, and public warehouses; telegraphic and telephone service; public roads and highways; savings banks and financial institutions to aid commerce and industry; places of amusement, tropical gardens, and hotels. The book of 415 pages contains a number of maps and is profusely illustrated. In the preface Mr. PORTER pays tribute to Mr. W. J. LAMPTON for his assistance in the preparation of the work.

A new and valuable work upon Brazil from the press of FERDINAND HIRT & SOHN, Leipsic (1899), is entitled "Das Republikanische Brasilien in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart" (The Past and Present of the Brazilian Republic), by OSKAR CANSTATT. Mr. CANSTATT formerly held the position of Director of Colonies under the Empire, and this book, composed of some 650 pages, is the result of his observations for a series of years, supplemented from official sources. It is certainly one of the most comprehensive treatises upon the Brazilian Republic that has lately appeared, and contains 62 half-tone pictures, 2 colored maps, and 1 panorama of Rio de Janeiro. The geographical position, boundaries, and the history of the discovery of the country make up the introduction, which is followed by a chapter upon the geology, climate, health conditions, flora and fauna (with many interesting illustrations), and population. Agriculture, mining, cattle raising, forestry, and industrial activity are fully treated, and most interesting is a chapter upon the various colonies. The exports and imports, coinage, and customs are given careful consideration, and a striking chapter is the one upon the shipping interests. The public highways, railroads, postal affairs, telegraphs, and telephones close that part of the book which is devoted to the commercial affairs of the country. The church, schools, art, literature, the press; charitable institutions, and customs of the country are graphically described, and reference is made to the constitution and government, justice, governmental finances, the army and navy. The history of the country is treated in thirteen sections, commencing with the year 1500, at the time of the seizure of Brazil by the Portuguese and ending with the present Republican era. This is followed by a minute description of the different States of the Republic, and as addenda are statistical tables giving immigration, prices of the chief commodities, railroads, and other matters of public interest. An elaborate index enhances the value of the work as a book of reference.

"Harper's Magazine" for December has a further article by Sir MARTIN CONWAY (see November, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETIN) upon mountain climbing in the Andes. The present article is entitled "Aconcagua and the Volcanic Andes," and is a continuation of the author's experiences in the Cordilleras. In the climbing of the mountains Sor-

rata and Illimani, he had really accomplished the main objects of his journey to South America.

"I received," says Sir MARTIN, "more kindness in half a day in Valparaiso than I could return thanks for in a column, for I arrived there without introductions, but desirous of ascending the Aconcagua." The road was at once made easy and everything arranged so that he was able to start in three days. It was not the first ascent of the mountain, this having been previously accomplished in 1897 by Mr. VINES, accompanied by the Himalayan guide ZURBRIGGEN. The ascent of Sir MARTIN CONWAY was a sporting and not a scientific expedition. The mountain had been measured by FITZGERALD with greater care and accuracy than any other high mountain in the world had ever been measured, and the author says that when FITZGERALD'S book appears the world will then know how valuable has been his work. The author makes this statement because, as he says, when he returned to Valparaiso, after a ten days' absence, the opinion seemed to obtain among uninformed persons that he had in some fashion surpassed the exploit of his predecessors.

The Aconcagua is not situated in Chile any more than Mount Blanc is in Switzerland. The Aconcagua is wholly in the Argentine Republic, according to Sir MARTIN. The description of the ascent in detail is given by a master hand, who must have thoroughly enjoyed the work as a true sportsman. Sir MARTIN took but one native Chilean with him, to whom he gave his ice axe, tent, and other paraphernalia to enable him to establish himself as a guide—and whom he states is abundantly capable to take anyone to the summit of the Aconcagua.

In an editorial note to this article it is stated that Mr. BANDELIER, who had been referred to in an article on Mount Illimani as excavating for the National Museum at Washington, was not so engaged. Since 1894 this gentleman has been employed by the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History of New York, which has in process of publication a great work on the people and antiquities of the Highlands of Bolivia.

"Hawaiian America: Something of Its History, Resources, and Prospects," by CASPAR WHITNEY. (HARPER & BROTHERS, 1899.) Mr. WHITNEY has furnished the reading public with a most interesting and valuable work in the above volume, which his publishers have brought out in a very artistic style, profusely illustrated with scenes of the natives, their industries, homes, diversions, etc., on the several islands, and with five maps. The author in his preface says: "It has not been my purpose to produce either a history of or a tourists' guide to the Hawaiian Islands, but rather to give a fair idea of the islands and their people, their character and their industries, their resources and their prospects." And Mr. WHITNEY has carried out his ideas in a crisp and entertaining manner, his style being a great departure from the dry and arid one followed by the average writer upon subjects of this kind.

The book contains seventeen chapters relating to the labor question,

industrial prospects, sugar growing, coffee planting, educating the natives, etc., which are followed by statistical tables relating to distances, population, leprosy, real estate, public lands, education, industries, railroads, commerce, etc. From these latter it appears that on December 31, 1897, the number of lepers on the islands was 1,100 out of a total population of 109,000. Speaking of education, the author informs us that in seventy years the people of the islands have been raised from the "lowest degradation to a condition of average literacy higher than that of all other countries save the United States, Prussia, and Switzerland, and to a wealth per capita averaging greater than any other country in the world." The wealth per capita is given at $60; that of the United States, on a basis of 72,000,000 population, is $23.70. In 1884 the percentage of the population of school age in attendance at educational institutions was 70.73; in 1890 it was 81.59, and in 1896 it reached the remarkable figure of 96.20.

"Índice del Comercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo y Clasificado de los Miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de los Estados Unidos" (American Commercial Index; Descriptive and Classified Directory of the Members of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States), is the title of a work just issued by the National Association of Manufacturers of Philadelphia, the object of which is to furnish merchants interested in United States commodities a comprehensive manual of the principal manufactures of the United States. The book contains the names of those members of the National Association who manufacture articles for export to other countries, and is divided into four parts. Part I is an alphabetical list of the members, with a brief enumeration of the articles they manufacture, and other useful information for purchasers. Part II is a classified list of the members; Part III, the registered cable addresses of the same, and Part IV, advertisements of members. The first volume issued by the association appeared in January, 1899, being an edition of 5,000 copies printed in English. The book under review is a Spanish edition for circulation in countries using the Spanish language. Early in 1900 another edition in English and French will be published for distribution at the Paris Exposition. The Index leaves nothing to be desired, and fully meets the purposes which brought it forth. The book is for free distribution, and copies may be secured from the Bureau of the American Republics or at the office of the National Association of Manufacturers in Philadelphia.

The "Bollettino del Ministero degli Affari Esteri" (Report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy) is a monthly publication issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, devoted to the reports of the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Kingdom abroad, and contains much valuable information in regard to the countries where they are stationed, as well as all the latest administrative measures issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Italy. The Bureau of the American Republics is in receipt of several of these

pamphlets, mostly devoted to immigration and colonization in all parts of the world as affecting Italians. Another important publication from the same source is a volume of 660 pages, bearing the title of "Emigrazione e Colonie," published in 1893, containing the reports of the royal diplomatic and consular agents in reply to a circular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of February 24, 1891, asking for information concerning Italian immigration and immigration laws, resources, etc., of the countries to which they were accredited in both continents. This work, besides the reports from all parts of the world, contains an appendix with tabulated statements prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce relating to the immigration of Italians by provinces in 1891–92 and from 1876 to 1892, besides other important data in reference to Italian schools, eleemosynary institutions, chambers of commerce, etc., abroad, and the royal laws governing emigration.

"El Catorce de Noviembre ó las Lluvias de Leonidas y los Ciclos Astronómicos" (November 14, Meteoric Showers and Astronomical Cycles) is the title of a pamphlet by Don MANUEL M. MIRANDA Y MARRÓN (HIJAS DE J. F. JENS, Mexico, 1899). It is a comparative study of the periods of maximum shooting stars in the middle of November in relation with the comet of 1866, the astronomic cycles, the precession of the equinoxes and the solar spots; the influence of the latter and, in general, of the sun over meteorological phenomena. The author of the work modestly disclaims any deep insight into the science of the heavens, stating that he has been only attracted to their study and to take up the matter of star showers through his deep interest in the Bible and history. He adds that having made the discovery of the fluvio-stellar cycle in the pursuit of his astronomical investigations, and of the intimate connection of this cycle with all the others in the known science, it seemed to him that he ought to communicate this discovery to the learned in the science of the stars and of nature, so that they may study this point and confirm him in what he claims to have sufficiently demonstrated through the force of figures, or convince him of the error into which, perhaps, he may have fallen. To the scientist and to the amateur who pursue investigations of the celestial dome this pamphlet will furnish much mental pabulum. The title of the work was due to the much-heralded end of the world on November 14 last.

The American Book Company (New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago) has favored the Bureau with a set of text-books which has just been published by them for use in the teaching of English and Spanish in the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. The books consist of a First, Second, and Third Reader in Spanish, lessons in the English language, printed in English and Spanish, Appleton's First Reader in Spanish, and several arithmetical pads with printed questions and blank spaces for the answers in Spanish. The books are nicely bound in heavy board covers, and are all that could be desired typographically. They appear

to be in every way well suited to fulfill the object for which they are intended, i. e., to teach the youth of the new American possessions their own as well as the English language. The "Natural Advanced Geography," published by the same company in English, furnishes a very complete and rational school course in the study of geography, and contains the very latest geographical and statistical data regarding the various countries of the earth. An innovation in the work, and one that will be greatly appreciated by the student, is that the maps throughout the book are drawn on the same scale, thus preventing the usual misconceptions regarding the comparative size of countries which pupils and students of the older geographies were prone to form. The illustrations, which abound in the work, have been generally engraved directly from photographs.

The "Century Company" has just issued a most readable book by SARA YORKE STEVENSON, Sc. D, entitled "Maximilian in Mexico; a Woman's Reminiscences of the French Intervention, 1862–1867." The book is dedicated to the late Señor MATÍAS ROMERO, Minister of Mexico to Washington, 1862–1898, in the following language:

"One of the latest survivors of the drama, some episodes of which are herein related: His approval of five articles on the French Intervention and the reign of Maximilian, which appeared in the 'Century Magazine' in 1897, and his earnest request that they be published in a more permanent form led to the presentation of this volume to the public. With the deepest appreciation of the important part played by this Mexican patriot in checking the aggressive policy of Europe upon this continent the author here inscribes his name."

The story of the ill-fated MAXIMILIAN has always been one of peculiar and pathetic interest to Americans. It is so closely connected with the evolution caused by the civil war in the United States that it may be regarded as a part of its history. The various incidents described came within the personal observation of the author, and for this reason the book must form a part of the permanent record of the tragic period of which she tells, giving much of the interesting detail surrounding the effort to establish an empire in the New World after all of the former European colonies save Brazil had gained their independence.

"La Escuela Cubana" (The Cuban School) is the title of a new illustrated weekly review published in the city of Havana under the direction of Dr. MANUEL VALDÉS RODRÍGUEZ, the first four numbers of which have been received. In the initial number, bearing date November 11, 1899, the editor states that the programme of the publication is to work earnestly in behalf of the following purposes: (1) To closer bind the relations of comradeship among those devoted to teaching in the Island of Cuba; (2) to set forth the progress realized in the science and art of education, omitting entirely political and religious opinions; (3) to stimulate and uphold public opinion in favor of education, considered as a patriotic labor; (4) to make known the efforts of our forbears in this direction; (5) to publish the laws and other official

measures that may affect the profession; (6) to aid in the work of the boards of education; (7) to make public the merits and labors of the persons most distinguished in teaching, and (8) to offer its columns to the profession that it may assist in the better success of the publication. In make-up and contents this new publication is worthy of the excellent profession to which it is devoted.

"The Territorial Acquisitions of the United States," an historical review, by EDWARD BICKNELL (SMALL, MAYNARD & Co., Boston, 1899), is the title of a very timely book of reference. The preface states: "Because all the world is discussing the results of the war of 1898, this historical review, which recites in detail all the precedents established by the United States since the beginning of its Government, should aid very greatly the intelligent comprehension of the subject. It is evidently the author's intention to avoid partisanship or controversy. He has told the whole truth, in simple graphic language, concerning every event that has occurred which has any relation to the gradual growth of a small, scattered group of States into the magnificent domain which is now the United States of America; and he has left the reader to his own conclusions as to the propriety and wisdom of extending the national control to lands beyond the sea."

The several chapters are devoted to the Northwestern Territory, Louisiana, Florida, Oregon, Texas, The Mexican Cession, Alaska, Hawaii, and a concluding one, referring briefly to the most recent acquisition of territory. As an appendix, a number of comparative schedules bearing upon the subject are given.

"Enciclopedia Biográfica de Contemporáneos" (Contemporary Biographical Encyclopedia), compiled and written by JOSÉ F. GODOY. (THOS. W. CADICK, Washington, 1898.) In this encyclopedic biography of contemporary men, Mr. GODOY, the efficient First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, has given the public what he states to be something new of its kind in so far as the Castilian tongue is concerned. The purpose of the author upon undertaking the work was to furnish biographical data of persons who are at present prominent in any way throughout the world in public administration, ecclesiastics, the army, the arts and sciences, commerce, industry, etc., and it may be considered as a compendium of contemporary history of all nations. Especial care has been taken to give preference to notable figures in the countries of the New World, and which for this reason are not included in European publications. The work contains on every page photogravures of the subjects treated, and is invaluable to those interested in seeking information regarding the prominent men of the countries south of the Rio Grande.

"Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos; Sus progresos en veinte años de pas, 1877–1897" (United States of Mexico; Its Progress During Twenty Years of Peace). (H. A. ROST, New York, 1899.) Lic. RAFAEL DE ZAYAS ENRÍQUEZ, the author of this able and interesting volume, is a member of the Mexican Geographical and Statistical Society and of

other scientific and literary societies, and his work shows that he was properly chosen to lay before the world the advancements made by the United Mexican States during the twenty years of peace which have blessed the country from 1877 to 1897. The work is a large quarto, printed on calendar paper, and embellished with full-page portraits of the President of the Republic and the members of his Cabinet, and is an historical and statistical study, founded on the most recent and complete official data. The author takes up each separate department of government and shows by figures taken from official sources the great strides Mexico has made during the fifth of a century closing with the year 1897. An appendix to the volume contains full biographical notes of the President and his Cabinet.

"The Anglo-American Magazine" for December contains an article on "Cape Nome's Gold Fields," by JAMES F. WARDNER, which is descriptive of the new El Dorado in Alaska. The author says: "I have seen most of the gold-mining regions on this mundane sphere, and can truthfully say that none compares with Nome. It is the most remarkable gold-mining region at present in the world, if not in the entire history of gold mining. It is about 225 miles north and west of the mouth of the Yukon River, or 133 miles from Healy, St. Michael Island." Mr. WARDNER relates that on August 14 last seven men took out $18,000 in gold in eighteen hours, and some other instances of gold findings border on the marvelous. The article is well worth the perusal of persons who believe that truth is stranger than fiction. The author closes with advice as to how to prepare for the gold fields of the Northwest and the best way to get there. The same number of the "Anglo-American" contains the completed pages on "The Alaskan Boundary Line," by the Hon. DAVID GLASS, Q. C., referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October.

"The Empire of the South: Its Resources, Industries, and Resorts," by FRANK PRESBREY, published by the Southern Railway Company, is the title of perhaps the best volume in the way of artistic illustration, letter press, and subject-matter ever issued by a railroad corporation. The company states that its aim in the preparation of the book was to present in a frank and forceful manner an unbiased and interestingly written statement of the development of the Southern States in manufacturing, commerce, and agriculture. The task assumed has been performed in a strikingly thorough manner, which reflects great credit upon the well-known student of and writer on the South, whose name is given above. To one unacquainted with the vast strides that certain sections of the South have made within the past twenty years, this book will be a revelation. The text is embellished on every page by reproductions of photographs of picturesque bits of scenery, monuments, public and private buildings, and home-life scenes in the South, and will be an ornament to and an instructive feature in any library.

"English Directory and John Grant's Argentine Commercial Guide. 1899–1900." (Buenos Ayres, 1899.) This volume is the second issue

of the work and treats many new subjects of interest, containing in a compact and attractive form much instructive and varied information about the Argentine Republic which has not appeared heretofore in print. Part II of the Directory contains specially prepared articles by writers who are well informed on their respective subjects. This part, among other interesting matters, contains an English translation of the Argentine Constitution, accounts of the last three civil wars, the National Lottery, the epidemic of 1871, the trade-mark and patent laws, statistics of the exportation of live stock, educational establishments, railways, etc. Part III is a revised translation of the Argentine Customs Tariff for 1899, alphabetically arranged and of easy reference. Messrs. JOHN GRANT & SONS, the publishers of the book, are to be congratulated upon having put so much valuable information within a compass so easily handled.

"Two Women in the Klondike" (G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York, 1899) is a story of a journey to the gold fields of Alaska made by two American women. The book is really a diary of the happenings to two adventurous spirits reared in luxury and refinement and who did not leave the latter behind them even if forced to forego the former in distant Alaska. Its authors, Mrs. ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK, widow of the late Commander HITCHCOCK, U. S. N., and Miss EDITH VAN BUREN, a grandniece of President MARTIN VAN BUREN, in addition to having had a veritable "good time" themselves, have done the world a service, and a perusal of the book demonstrates that even amid the hardships and rough surroundings incident to life in a mining camp a good and true woman is as welcome as in the drawing-room of the metropolis. One hundred and five half-tone illustrations add interest to the book, and give a vivid idea of the life and conditions in the far-away territory, thereby enriching the word pictures of the text. The preface is written by Governor ELISHA DYER, of Rhode Island.

"Quer durch Süd America" (Trip through South America), contains sketches of a journey across the Andes in the year 1890, by MORITZ SCHANZ (Hamburg, W. MAUKE SÖHNE 1891), and is a most entertainingly written little volume. The author gives many facts gathered in the course of his travels in Rio Grande do Sul, Montevideo, the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, Chile, etc., weaving around them a special interest through his often trenchant remarks.

"Das heutige Brasilien" (Brazil of To-day), by the same author and publishers, which appeared in 1893, is a more ambitious work of much the same style as his former effort, but confined exclusively to the one country, as its title implies. A chapter upon the social life in Brazil, dress, manners, and customs is presented in a way indicating that the author has enjoyed good opportunities for observation, of which he has not neglected to make use.

Although these books have been in print for some time, it is only recently that the Bureau has been fortunate enough to receive them, and it is thought proper, therefore, to call attention to them.

Mr. A. JONIN has given the result of an extended residence in South America in the form of a large work, printed in the Russian language. A German translation of this has been made by M. VON PEZOLD, which is entitled "Durch Süd Amerika, Reise und Kulturhistorische bilder." (Through South America; Sketches of Travel and History.) The first volume contains some 950 pages and is devoted to the land of the pampas. Volume II, containing 740 pages, treats of the Straits of Magellan and the Republic of Chile. The author states that the object of his writings is to give a lifelike picture of the South American Continent, its nature, customs of the people, their dependence upon and relations to one another. Each of the numerous features taken up by the author has been subjected to a most critical review, and of particular interest are the interviews which he records as having taken place with many different people with whom he came in contact. The German publication has appeared in Berlin, Seigfried, Cronbach, 1895.

"Rathschläge für Auswanderer nach Südbrasilien" (Advice to Emigrants going to Southern Brazil), published in 1897 by the Central Society for Commercial Geography. (Berlin, Allgemeine Verlags—Argentur.)

This little work has been prepared by Dr. R. JANNASCH, with the assistance of CARL VON KOSERITZ, of Porto Allegre, and O. DÖRFFEL, German Consul in Joinville. It contains many practical hints for emigrants.

The history of the several colonies is given with the following maps:

1. Santa Catharina and Paraná. Scale 1:1,000,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.

2. Rio Grande do Sul. Scale 1:500,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.

3. Southern Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catharina, and Parana. Scale 1:2,000,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.

(LEOPOLD KRAATZ, Berlin, lithographer.)

"Breves Indicaciones para el Inmigrante y el Viagero á Bolivia" (Instructive Notes for Immigrants and Travellers in Bolivia), by MANUEL V. BALLIVIÁN. (La Paz, 1898.) The author of this pamphlet is the Director of the National Bureau of Immigration, Statistics, and Geographical Propaganda, President of the Geographical Society of La Paz, etc., and the Bureau is indebted to him for the copy of his work just received, which has been annotated, corrected, and brought down to date by him. Between its two covers it contains about all the information that an immigrant or a tourist could possibly desire regarding the great inland country to which it refers, from a full description of the geography, orography, hydrography, and other physical features of the Republic to the different routes leading from the ocean and contiguous States to its territory, with passenger rates by land and sea. Attached to the pamphlet is a map of Bolivia, containing all data down to the date of publication.

Dr. JUAN VILARÓ DÍAZ, of Havana, Cuba, sends a pamphlet entitled "Proyecto de Ley de Caza" (Draft of a Game Law), formulated by him and approved by the scientific faculty of the University of Havana on July 29, 1899. As its name indicates, it is the draft of a game law for the Island of Cuba, though differing in some essential particulars from similar laws in the United States, since it refers not only to wild animals and birds but also to the tame and domesticated species, though it is intended, like our own, to prevent the extermination of the fauna of the island. An appendix gives the close season in all States in the United States and in Canada, and contains data regarding the animals and birds of Cuba, which will be found valuable to those interested in sportsmanship.

"La República Argentina en 1900" (The Argentine Republic in 1900) is the title of a work which is to be published by the South American Bank Note Company for the Paris Exposition of next year. The prospectus announcing the forthcoming volume shows that it will contain nineteen chapters devoted to a general physical description of the Republic, its situation, boundaries and area, principal mountains and rivers, climate, geological data, mineral, vegetable, and animal products, political organization, government, and administration; immigration and colonization laws, means of communication, statistical data regarding population, agriculture, cattle, trade and manufactures, the army and the navy, etc.

"A Descriptive Catalogue of Useful Fiber Plants of the World, including the Structural and Economic Classifications of Fibers," by CHARLES RICHARDS DODGE. (Washington, 1897.) The author of this work is the Special Agent in Charge of Fiber Investigations of the United States Department of Agriculture, and he has embodied in the volume his observations and researches covering a period of more than twenty-five years. In the preparation of his work, Mr. DODGE has had the assistance of fiber experts, botanists, and others in many lands, and the result is a most valuable contribution to the literature of economic industry and ethnobotany. The text is a descriptive catalogue of 1,018 species of useful fibers of the world, many of which are illustrated.

The Audit Publishing Company, of New York, has just issued the second number of its "Directory of Directors," a 700-page volume, which contains a complete list of the corporations of New York and the directors who control them. The information furnished by this publication is interesting, as well as valuable, and many curious phases appear of the manner in which great corporations are managed. The name of one prominent gentleman figures in the directories of eighty-eight chartered concerns, while the name of Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, who is reputed to be the richest man in America, is found in the directories of but three companies.

According to the "New York Herald" a bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies of France for a vote of 50,000 francs a year

as subvention to French schools in South American countries. The author of this measure, who is one of the Deputies for the Department of the Seine, says that a big effort is necessary to combat and arrest the tendency toward "Teutonization" in that part of the Western Continent in order to preserve a clientèle for commercial France. This can best be accomplished, he thinks, by educating and developing French characteristics among the children.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN welcomes as an exchange the "Revista Económica y Financiera" (Economic and Financial Review), a monthly publication of La Paz, Bolivia, the first number of which appeared on August 28, 1899. The new Review is devoted to political economy, finance, political and social sciences, commerce, industry, and statistics, and has on its staff prominent foreign and native writers on the subjects embraced within its programme. Judging from the first two numbers, this publication will occupy an enviable place among the South American publications.

A very instructive and interesting bulletin is that just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, on "Practical Forestry in the Adirondacks," by HENRY S. GRAVES, Superintendent of Working Plans. The work contains several maps and half-tone reproductions of photographs of scenes in the Adirondack woods.

"Petermann's Mitteillungen," No. 10, 1899, contains a map of the new boundary line established between Venezuela and British Guiana, together with a short history of the controversy and the result of the Commission of Arbitration, by Mr. H. WICHMAN, the well-known German writer upon geographical subjects.

"Diccionario Biográfico de Chile" (Biographical Dictionary of Chile) (Vol. II, Part 39), by PEDRO PABLO FIGUEROA. (Santiago de Chile, 1899.) This work has now reached the letters "Pin," and part 39 contains the same full biographical data regarding the prominent men in all the walks of life in Chile as the former parts.

The "South American Journal" (London) for December 2, 1899, as a supplement, presents its readers a very useful and admirably executed map of the Argentine Republic, showing the location of the several railroad lines. This map was originally drawn especially for the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company.

Among the subjects discussed editorially and otherwise in the "Banker's Magazine" for November are: "The Treasury Surplus and the Money Market;" "Refunding the Public Debt of the United States;" "Financial Dangers of Redundant and Deficient Revenues," etc.

The "Exporters and Importers' Journal" in its issue of November 11, 1899, contains an interesting article on "Cocoa and Chocolate; Their Origin and Manufacture."

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING NOVEMBER, 1899.

During the past month the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following publications:

BY GIFT.

Calcaño, Eduardo. Right of Venezuela in boundary question with England. Caracas, Imp. Bruzual, 1895.

Jennings, Albert Gould. The Cuban question. Brooklyn, 1896.

King, Clarence. Shall Cuba be Free? (1896). Reprint from "Forum," September, 1895.

Moreno, Dr. F. P. Explorations in Patagonia. London, R. G. S., 1899.

Moses, Bernard. Constitution of the United States of Mexico. Philadelphia, Academy of P. and S. Science.

Moses, Bernard. Constitution of the Republic of Colombia. Philadelphia, Academy of P. and S. Science, 1893.

Miranda, M. M. y Marrón. El Catorce de Noviembre. * * * Mexico, J. S. Jens, 1899.

National Association of Manufacturers. Indice del Comercio Americano. Philadelphia, 1899.

Romero, Matías. Coffee and India Rubber Culture in Mexico. * * * New York, Putnam's Sons, 1898.

Wharton, Francis. Digest of the International Law of the United States. 3 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1887.

Wiener, Charles. La République Argentine. Paris, Librairie Cerf, 1899.

Cuban Question in its True Light. New York, 1895.

Spanish Rule in Cuba. (Trans.) New York, 1896.

Caldwell, Chas. S. (Trans.) Mining Laws of the Republic of Costa Rica. Topeka, Kans., 1897.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

Correspondence between the United States and Great Britain respecting Arbitration between British Guiana and Venezuela. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.

Documents relating to Boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.

———. Further documents relating to boundary. No. 3. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.

———. Further documents relating to boundary question. No. 4. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.

———. Further documents relating to boundary. No. 5. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.

Maps (9) to accompany boundary documents.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Cuerpos diplomáticos y consulares. Buenos Ayres, Taller Tip., 1899.

Memoria de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto. Buenos Ayres, 1899.

Proyecto de ley orgánica municipal. Buenos Ayres, Imp. de la Volicia, 1899.

BELGIUM.

Tableau Général du commerce avec les pays étrangers. Brussels, Ad. Mertens, 1899.

———. Annuaire statistique de la Belgique. 1898. Brussels, J. B. Stevens, 1899.

BRAZIL.

Brazilian-Argentine Boundary Question. Statement of Brazil. (Eng.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1894.
———. Original Statement. (Port.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1894.
———. Documents. (Eng.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1894.
———. Documentos. (Orig. text.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1894.
———. Appendices with maps. (1) and (2). New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1894.

COSTA RICA.

Documentos relativos á la Independencia. San José, Tip. Nac., 1899.

CUBA.

Leyes, etc., de la República de Cuba. Imp. del Gobierno, 1896.

ECUADOR.

Informe del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores. Quito, Imp. de Espejo, 1899.

MEXICO.

Boletín de estadística fiscal. Núm. 192. Mexico, Tip. Official, 1899.

UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Descriptive Catalogue of Useful Fiber Plants. * * * Washington, Government Printing Office, 1897.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

Statistics of Railways in the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Report of Boundary Commission. United States and Mexico. 1891–1896. Washington Government Printing Office, 1898.
Views of the Monuments, etc., on the Boundary Line.
Boundary between the United States and Mexico. (Atlas.)
Commercial Relations of the United States for 1898. Vols. 1 and 2. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Summary of Commerce and Finance. Sept., 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.
Thirty-first Annual List of Merchant Vessels of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Translation of the Code of Commerce of Cuba and Porto Rico. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

VENEZUELA.

Arancel de Derechos de Importación. Caracas, Tip. Moderna, 1897.
Constitución de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela (1893). Caracas, Tip. Universal, 1898.
Leyes y Decretos del Ministerio de Fomento. Caracas, Imp. Nacional, 1896.
Código de Minas. Caracas, Imp. Nacional.
Yearly Statistics of the United States of Venezuela. Caracas, 1896.

BY PURCHASE.

Briseño, Don Ramón. Catálogo razonado de la biblioteca Chileno-Americana. Santiago de Chile. Imp. "La Estrella de Chile," 1874.
Canstatt, Oskar. Das Republikanische Brasilien. Liepzig, 1899.
Grant, John & Sons. Directory of the English-speaking Residents. * * * Argentine Republic. Buenos Ayres, John Grant & Sons, 1899.

Jannasch, Dr. R., Rathsschläge für auswanderer nach Südbrasilien. Berlin, 1897.
Larousse, Pierre. Dictionnaire complete illustré Paris, Libraire Larousse, 1899.
Matzenauer, Carlos. Bolivia in historischer, geog. und cultureller Hinricht. Wien, Leopold Weiss, 1897.
National Cyclopædia of American Biography. New York, J. T. White & Co., 1899.
Schanz, Moritz. Das heutige Brasilien. Hamburg, 1893.
———. Quer durch Süd-America. Hamburg, 1891.
Schmidz, Otto. Die financien Mexikos. Leipzig, 1894.
———. Die financien Argentiniens. Leipzig, 1895.
Jonin, Alexander. Durch Süd-Amerika. Berlin, 1895.
———. Magelhaensstrasse und der Republik Chili. Berlin, 1896.

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. Monthly.
Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
Boletín de Agricultura, Mineria ó Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York City.
Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia. Quarterly.
Coal Trade Journal. New York City. Weekly.
Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. Weekly.
Diario Oficial. Bogotá, Colombia. Daily.
Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
Diario Oficial. City of Mexico. Daily.
Diario Oficial. (Laws.) City of Mexico. Daily.
Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
El Agricultor Mexicano. City of Mexico. Monthly.
El Comercio. La Paz, Bolivia.
El Comercio. Lima, Peru.
El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.
El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.
El Economista Mexicano. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.
El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.
El Progreso de México. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.
El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.
Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.

Feilden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.
Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. Quarterly.
Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.
Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.
Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.
Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.
Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.
Lavoura (A). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.
La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.
La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.
La Patria. León, Nicaragua.
La Plata Zeitung. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.
La Producción Argentina. Buenos Ayres.
La Producción Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Semimonthly.
Le Commerce Extérieur Argentin. Buenos Ayres.
Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.
Modern Mexico. St. Louis, Missouri, and City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.
Moniteur Officiel. Paris, France. Weekly.
Novedades (Las). New York City. Weekly.
Petermann's Mitteilungen. Gotha, Germany. Monthly.
Revista Brazileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
Revista de la Instrucción Pública de Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia. Monthly.
Revista Maritima Brazileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.
Revue du Commerce Extérieur. Paris. Semimonthly.
Revue Politique et Parlementaire. Paris. Monthly.
Semana Mercantil. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.
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Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
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Japan-American Commercial Journal. Tokio, Japan.
La Escuela Cubana. Havana, Cuba.
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La Plata Post. Buenos Ayres.
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BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. DICIEMBRE, 1899. No. 6.

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA DE LA UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

Una sesión de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas se efectuó en el Salón de Recepciones Diplomáticas del Departamento de Estado el jueves, 23 de noviembre de 1899.

El Honorable Señor Secretario de Estado, Mr. JOHN HAY, en su carácter de Presidente de la Comisión, declaró abierta la sesión.

Los otros miembros de la Comisión que estuvieron presentes fueron:

El Señor Dr. Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Ministro de la República Argentina.

El Señor Don JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, también asistió á la sesión.

El Señor Secretario de Estado manifestó que el objeto de la reunión era oir leer el Informe Anual del Director, quien lo leyó en seguida. Dicho informe, que lleva la fecha de 23 de noviembre de 1899, se publica á continuación.

El informe fué declarado enteramente satisfactorio y aprobado por los miembros de la Comisión. Acto continuo y, á moción del Señor MÉROU, se presentaron á Mr. ROCKHILL las gracias de la Comisión por los buenos servicios que ha prestado á la Oficina.

La Comisión declaró unánimente que en cuanto á las recomendaciones contenidas en el informe, se dejase eso al juicio del Señor Director, y, á petición de éste, se resolvió que se adopte el sistema métrico para calcular el valor de las monedas, así como para los pesos y medidas.

Después de ésto el Señor MÉROU se expresó como sigue:

"Desgraciadamente para mí, ésta es la última sesión de la Comisión Ejecutiva á la que tengo la honra de asistir como miembro de la misma,

porque, como sabéis, voy á partir para mi país. Aprovecho esta ocasión para rendiros las gracias por la cortesía con que siempre me habéis tratado, y para despedirme de vosotros, mis colegas de la Comisión Ejecutiva, asegurándoos que en el nuevo puesto que voy á ocupar en mi patria, seguiré tomando vivo interés en esta Oficina, de cuya Comisión Ejecutiva he tenido la honra de formar parte. Puedo asegurar al Señor ROCKHILL que siempre me encontrará dispuesto á prestarle mi cooperación; y expondré á mi Gobierno la importancia y utilidad de esta Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. Estoy convencido de que la Oficina no podría estar á cargo de persona más competente, y no dudo que el Señor Director continuará introduciendo mejoras en lo futuro que tenderán á hacer más estrechas las relaciones entre nuestros países."

El Señor Secretario de Estado contestó con las siguientes palabras:

"Seguro estoy de que todos sentimos separarnos del Señor MÉROU, que, como miembro de esta Comisión, ha mostrado siempre tanta capacidad como diligencia. Sin embargo, aunque sentimos su partida, no podemos menos de congratularle al ser elevado en su país á una posición altamente honrosa y de gran responsibilidad. Nos complace especialmente el saber que no dejará de tomar interés en los trabajos de esta Oficina, sino que en el distinguido puesto que en lo de adelante ocupará en su patria, nos prestará valiosos servicios en la obra á que estamos dedicados, que es la de dar incremento á las relaciones comerciales entre todos los países de este continente y hacer más estrechos los lazos de amistad y simpatía que felizmente nos unen."

A moción del Señor CALVO, se dieron instrucciones al Señor Director de la Oficina para que comunicase al Señor Ministro MÉROU los sentimientos expresados, con motivo de su partida, por el Presidente de la Comisión.

Se levantó la sesión.

WÁSHINGTON, D. C., *23 de noviembre de 1899.*

INFORME ANUAL DEL DIRECTOR.

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,
Wáshington, 23 de noviembre de 1899.

Al Señor Secretario de Estado, Presidente de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, y á los otros miembros de la misma.

SEÑORES: El Señor Don FEDERICO EMORY, mi predecesor en esta Oficina, os sometió el 29 de marzo su informe final acerca de los trabajos de la misma, como un suplemento á su informe anual que lleva la fecha de 17 de diciembre de 1898, trabajo aquél en el cual expone la condición

en que dicha Oficina se encontraba un mes antes de que yo entrara á hacerme cargo de ella.

Las cuentas de la Oficina durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, son como sigue:

Ingresos y egresos durante el año económico que terminó el 29 de junio de 1899.

INGRESOS.

Cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899			$36,000.00
Saldo proveniente de ventas, alquileres, etc., 1° de julio de 1898		$649.82	
Cuota de las Repúblicas Latino-Americanas	$5,762.78		
Entradas por anuncios	$27,005.98		
Entradas por venta de publicaciones	2,622.45		
	29,628.43		
		35,391.21	
			36,041.03
Entradas totales			72,041.03

EGRESOS.

De la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos 1899	36,000.00	
De las entradas proveniente de ventas, alquileres, etc	34,409.73	
		70,409.73
Saldo el 1° de julio de 1899		1,631.30

Cuadro detallado de los gastos en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899.

	De la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899.	De las entradas provenientes de ventas, alquileres, etc.	Totales.
Sueldos	$30,783.08	$9,069.55	$39,852.63
Artículos de escritorio	100.25	877.55	977.80
Alquiler	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Biblioteca	37.28	116.75	154.03
Sellos de correo	46.11	915.65	961.76
Muebles	22.65	149.75	172.40
Impresiones	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Comisiones por contratos para anuncios hechos antes de 11° de marzo de 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Gastos diversos	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

Por lo que antecede se ve que el 1° de julio de 1899, al comenzar el presente año económico, había un saldo á favor de la Oficina de $1,631.30. En la cuenta atrás mencionada no está incluida la cantidad que se adeuda á la Tipografía Nacional por trabajos hechos para la Oficina durante el año económico que terminó en la fecha mencionada.

Los datos que vienen á continuación muestran que al comenzar el presente año económico se adeudaba á la Tipografía Nacional, según

cuentas presentadas durante el año económico de 1898–99, un saldo de $6,388.09:

Cuenta presentada por el Director de la Tipografía Nacional para el año económico de 1899.

Suma total de las cuentas presentadas para el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899		$34,870.61
Cantidad á deducir de la suma cobrada por composición y trabajo tipográfico, según arreglos hechos con el Director de la Tipografía Nacional y acreditada á la Oficina		2,982.48
Suma total por pagar		31,888.13
Suma pagada de la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899	$3,279.25	
Cantidad pagada de las entradas provenientes de ventas, alquileres, etc., durante el año económico de 1899	$14,707.28	
Cantidad pagada durante el actual año económico	7,513.51	
	22,220.79	
Cantidad total pagada		25,500.04
Saldo por pagar		6,388.09

Al hacerme cargo de esta Oficina me pareció que era necesario reducir los gastos, especialmente desde que las entradas por cuenta de anuncios eran cada día menores y había poca esperanza de que aumentaran.

Mediante varios cambios hechos en la impresión del BOLETÍN, sin que éstos hayan afectado la calidad del trabajo tipográfico ni reducido la edición, que sigue siendo de 11,000 ejemplares, se considera que el costo de esta publicación no excederá de $14,000 durante el año corriente.

Los sueldos que la Oficina paga, aunque los he reducido de modo á obtener una economía neta de $2,300, ascienden á cerca de $34,500 anualmente. Creo que aun es posible, si la Comisión Ejecutiva lo aprueba, efectuar mayor reducción en orden á economizar una suma de importancia, sin que por esto sufran los trabajos de la Oficina.

La impresión de los manuales no ocasiona gastos muy considerables á la Oficina, y espero que la preparación de esas obras continuará activamente y sin interrupción.

Se observará que en la cuenta que antecede, relativa á los gastos de la Oficina, es insignificante la cantidad que aparece como gastada en la Biblioteca. Se debería dedicar una suma considerable á la compra de publicaciones y mapas referentes á la América Central y del Sur, y es muy sensible que esto no sea posible á causa de los gastos ordinarios de la Oficina.

Os presento á continuación un cómputo de los ingresos y egresos durante el año económico que terminará el 30 de junio de 1900:

Cómputo de los ingresos:	
Cantidad votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos	$36,000.00
Cuota de las Repúblicas latino-americanas	15,813.53
Anuncios	3,000.00
Venta de publicaciones	1,500.00
Total	56,313.53

Cómputo de los egresos en la proporción actual:

Sueldos	$34,540	
Alquiler	2,000	
Impresiones	14,000	
Artículos de escritorio y muebles	1,000	
Sellos de correo	900	
Gastos diversos	2,000	
		$54,440.00
Saldo		1,873.53

En el cómputo anterior figura toda la cantidad que deben pagar las Repúblicas latino-americanas, aunque en años pasados han faltado como $3,500 para llegar á esa suma. Si se substrae esta cantidad, resulta que, manteniéndose los gastos como son en la actualidad, habrá un déficit en el año como de $1,700, sin tomar en consideración lo que se debe á la Tipografía Nacional como saldo de la cuenta del año pasado, y algunas reclamaciones de larga data que aun existen contra la Oficina. Espero que será posible pagar lo que se adeuda mediante la economía que he indicado atrás y la recaudación de algunas cantidades que todavía se le deben á la Oficina por cuenta de anuncios, las cuales ascienden á $3,858.74. Una parte de ellas podría quizá recaudarse por medio de los agentes que últimamente han sido empleados con este objeto.

Mis predecesores manifestaron á menudo la opinión de que podía hacerse frente al costo del BOLETÍN con las entradas posibles á cuenta de anuncios. No creo que esta esperanza sea realizable. Con el sistema que ahora se sigue en la Oficina, de conformidad con vuestras instrucciones, sistema al que doy mi más sincera aprobación, las entradas provenientes de tales fuentes no pueden calcularse en más de $3,000 á $4,000 al año, porque es un hecho, según estoy bien informado, que para obtener anuncios hay que solicitarlos, y este método ha sido prohibido con mucha razón por la Oficina. En el transcurso de algún tiempo puede ser que aumenten las entradas que provienen de dichas fuentes, pero por el momento no debe esperarse que eso suceda de un modo considerable. Ni tampoco hay razón para contar con la venta del BOLETÍN como fuente de recursos, según se verá por el cuadro siguiente:

Subscripciones al Boletín Mensual.

Año.	Anual.	Semestral.
1897	190	6
1898	160	12
1899	92	15

EL BOLETIN MENSUAL.

Como ya queda dicho, la edición del BOLETÍN MENSUAL asciende á 11,000 ejemplares, de los cuales como 9,000 se envían á la América Central y del Sur y cosa de 1,300 se distribuyen en los Estados Unidos

y otros países del mundo. En la tabla que viene á continuación se expone cuántos números del BOLETÍN han sido remitidos á diversos países en el mes de noviembre de este año:

Distribución del Boletín durante el mes de noviembre.

Alemania	4	Inglaterra	5
Argentina	444	Islas de Cabo Verde	5
Austria	2	Jamaica	60
Bélgica	3	Japón	1
Bolivia	56	Las Antillas Menores	38
Brasil	375	Las Azores	1
Canadá	171	México	5,101
Chile	162	Nicaragua	97
Colombia	184	Nueva Zelandia	1
Costa Rica	98	Paraguay	27
Cuba	287	Perú	133
Ecuador	113	Puerto Rico	200
Egipto	1	República Dominicana	140
Estados Unidos	1,307	Salvador	25
Francia	7	Uruguay	143
Guatemala	495	Venezuela	546
Haití	196		
Holanda	1	Total	10,636
Honduras	207		

De tiempo en tiempo se ha enviado á los representantes diplomáticos acreditados en Wáshington por las naciones latino-americanas que forman parte de la Unión Internacional, una lista de las personas á quienes se remite en sus respectivos países el BOLETÍN MENSUAL, suplicándoles que hagan aquellas alteraciones y adiciones que estimen oportunas, indicando asímismo los mejores medios de hacer más extensa la circulación de las publicaciones de la Oficina en cada república. De esta manera dicha circulación va en constante aumento, tanto en la América Central como en la del Sur, y en el mes corriente excede á la de octubre próximo pasado en 865 ejemplares. Se piensa que si la franquicia postal para las publicaciones de la Oficina fuese concedida por algunas de las naciones latino-americanas que aun no la han otorgado, la circulación de aquéllas podría aumentar considerablemente.

Es de sentirse que sea tan pequeño el número de ejemplares del BOLETÍN que circula en los Estados Unidos. Aunque nuestro pueblo puede disponer de otras publicaciones en las que se dan informes sobre las repúblicas latino-americanas, abrigo la convicción de que en ninguna otra se encuentran tantos y tan recientes datos de fuente fidedigna como en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. Estoy enteramente de acuerdo con mi predecesor, el Señor EMORY, en que á fin de extender la circulación de esta revista, sería oportuno solicitar del Congreso de los Estados Unidos que facilitase los medios necesarios para hacer una edición de 5,000 ejemplares mensualmente, durante el próximo año económico, que terminará el 30 de junio de 1901, con la mira *de distribuirla en los Estados Unidos*, y de esta manera dar á conocer mejor las riquezas

de las repúblicas latino-americanas y los alicientes que ofrecen al comercio.

Con el objeto de que el BOLETÍN sea de mayor utilidad, la Oficina ha tratado de obtener informes de todas las publicaciones periódicas de Europa, así como de las de la América del Norte y del Sur. Ahora se reciben 1,725, incluyendo los diarios, y todos los informes de importancia que contienen son traducidos, compilados ó debidamente clasificados para conservarlos como obras de consulta en el archivo de la Oficina. En la actualidad se hacen traducciones del español, portugués, francés, alemán, é italiano. Se han dado los pasos necesarios para que la Oficina reciba, en calidad de canjes, mayor número de publicaciones, y acerca de este particular debo expresar mis más sinceras gracias á la Oficina de Canjes Internacionales de la Smithsonian Institution, que ha autorizado á sus agentes en exterior para que nos presten sus servicios con el fin indicado. Es de esperar que dentro de poco tiempo esta Oficina recibirá con regularidad casi todos los periódicos que le son de interés. En el BOLETÍN se publica ahora una lista de todos los que se reciben, y los más valiosos de ellos se conservan en nuestro archivo. Los que no son de particular interés para la Oficina se envían á la Biblioteca del Congreso para su gabinete de lectura.

Como otro medio de obtener informes para la Oficina y de hacer que en el BOLETIN se refleje la condición actual de todos los países que forman la Unión Internacional, se ha solicitado la cooperación de personas prominentes y fidedignas que, con el carácter de Miembros Correspondientes Honorarios de la Unión Internacional, se sirvan suministrar de tiempo en tiempo á la Oficina informes que tiendan á extender y completar el conocimiento que tenemos de las condiciones económicas y de las riquezas de sus respectivos países.

Todos los Representantes Diplomáticos de los países latino-americanos han prestado de la manera más cortés su cooperación á la Oficina en orden á que obtenga los servicios de los mencionados Miembros Correspondientes, que no dudo contribuirán con su coloboración á dar mayor ensanche á los trabajos de la misma.

Gracias al interés que ha mostrado en los trabajos de la Oficina el Director de la Tipografía Nacional, la impresión del BOLETÍN se ha facilitado mucho, de tal suerte que en la actualidad puede distribuirse dentro de diez días después de haber sido dado á la prensa, lo cual ha aumentado considerablemente su importancia.

MANUALES.

Cuando el Señor EMORY presentó su último informe (diciembre de 1898) el Manual de Venezuela había sido enviado á la imprenta, y ha sido publicado ya en dos partes, á saber: Parte 1ª en inglés; parte 2ª en español. Debido á no haberse podido obtener el último mapa en que se expone la nueva división de la República en estados, se omitió su publicación, según se manifiesta en la nota que á modo de prólogo aparece en la obra.

Al terminarse este trabajo se comenzo á traducir del inglés al español el Manual de México, que ya estaba en páginas, mientras que se hacía también la traducción del Manual del Brasil, escrito en portugués por el ilustrado Señor Secretario de la Legación brasileña en Wáshington, Senhor MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

En esa época dirigí una comunicación á los representantes en Wáshington de los países que pertenecen á la Unión Internacional, suplicándoles que me prestaran oficialmente su cooperación para obtener de sus respectivos Gobiernos los últimos informes oficiales, á fin de que sirvieran en la preparación de las nuevas ediciones de los manuales, y asímismo les pedí que me ayudaran en dicho trabajo con su personal cooperación y con sus indicaciones. Las respuestas recibidas son altamente satisfactorias, y ya han sido enviados á la Oficina numerosos libros y documentos impresos.

El Manual de México estaría terminado á esta fecha, si no se hubiera creído conveniente hacer la obra más completa de lo que era, introduciendo en ella ciertas materias que antes habían sido tratadas ligeramente ó desatendidas por completo, y dando los últimos datos estadísticos que ha sido posible obtener. También ha ocasionado dilación en este trabajo la necesidad de preparar un nuevo mapa de la República, valiéndose de las cartas geográficas existentes y de otras fuentes de información disponibles. El nuevo mapa contendrá datos de carácter económico, y en él aparecerán señalados los terrenos bajo cultivo, los bosques, minas, ferrocarriles, líneas telegráficas, y otras cosas que puedan ser de interés á los lectores. Se trata de publicar de tiempo en tiempo, tan luego como se hayan obtenido suficientes datos, mapas parecidos de las otras repúblicas, la necesidad de los cuales se hace sentir notablemente. La Oficina cuenta con los servicios de un dibujante experimentado, y se ha dado principio á la preparación del mapa de México. También se están delineando los de las otras repúblicas, todos en una escala grande y uniforme. En ellos se están insertando datos de la naturaleza arriba indicada.

Á fin de que estos manuales sean dignos de confianza, obras modelo, si fuese posible, y que estén á la altura de la importancia que las repúblicas tienen y de la posición que, como representante de ellas, ocupa la Oficina, se han solicitado los servicios de autoridades prominentes de los Estados Unidos y de las otras naciones con el objeto de que preparen aquella parte de dichos manuales que requieren el trabajo de peritos. En algunos casos los referidos servicios han sido obtenidos ya.

Cuando estén terminados los manuales de México y del Brasil, se procederá á preparar los de los otros países, de conformidad con los datos entonces disponibles. Se publicarán ediciones pequeñas, y tan luego como se obtengan más recientes noticias estadísticas y de otra clase, se darán á luz otras.

LA BIBLIOTECA.

No se puede insistir demasiado en la necesidad de que la biblioteca de la Oficina contenga cuantas publicaciones ha menester á fin de responder á satisfacción de la Unión Internacional á los fines para que fué creada. En ella deberían encontrarse todas las obras, ya sean de carácter oficial ó no, todos los mapas, todos los documentos que se relacionan con cualquiera de las Repúblicas latino-americanas, porque es el único lugar en los Estados Unidos donde naturalmente se buscarán tales publicaciones. Para alcanzar este fin, la Oficina no economiza esfuerzo alguno, y con la bondadosa cooperación de los representantes diplomáticos de las Repúblicas latino-americanas en Wáshington, la de sus Gobiernos, la de las doctas sociedades de sus diferentes países y la de particulares interesados en el buen éxito de dichos esfuerzos, es de esperar que se obtendrá el objeto deseado.

Hay en la actualidad como 5,000 volúmenes en la biblioteca. Muchos de éstos pertenecen á cierto género de literatura que, estrictamente hablando, no es de carácter adecuado á la biblioteca de esta Oficina. Durante los últimos seis años se han recibido pocas obras nuevas en la biblioteca. Sería conveniente disponer de los libros inútiles que tenemos y de los ejemplares de otros que existen por duplicado, ya vendiéndolos ó cambiándolos por otros, á fin de que haya lugar en los estantes para obras que tratan de las repúblicas americanas y de sus intereses. Las obras que deben conservarse como un núcleo para el futuro desarrollo de la biblioteca son las que versan sobre las materias siguientes:

1. Agricultura y riquezas agrícolas.
2. Colonización y terrenos baldíos.
3. Comercio.
4. Obras geográficas.
5. Historia.
6. Leyes, informes oficiales, proyectos de ley y documentos.
7. Minas, minería y riquezas minerales.
8. Ferrocarriles.
9. Estadísticas.
10. Viajes y diescripciones.
11. Obras varias de consulta, diccionarios, etc.

Actualmente se está preparando una serie de tarjetas catalogadas que contendrá los nombres de los libros que existen en la biblioteca, debidamente clasificados según los diferentes países de que tratan. Otro tanto se hará con los que vengan más tarde. Se desea incluir en este catálogo un índice de todos los libros importantes que tratan de la América latina y de sus intereses, y que se encuentren en la Biblioteca del Congreso y en las de los Ministerios, y además, en cuanto sea posible, una lista de los artículos más importantes que han aparecido últimamente en publicaciones periódicas y que versan sobre el mismo asunto.

Hay que completar la colección de leyes, de tratados con potencias

extranjeras y de estadísticas oficiales de cada uno de los países representados en la biblioteca, porque todo eso está muy incompleto.

He dirigido comunicaciones á los representantes diplomáticos de las diversas repúblicas en los Estados Unidos, enviándoles listas de las publicaciones oficiales de sus respectivos países que ahora existen en la Oficina, indicándoles los volúmenes que nos hacen falta y solicitando de ellos que obtengan para nuestra biblioteca los trabajos que sus respectivos Gobiernos publiquen. Por este medio se han obtenido varias publicaciones de importancia, y todos los mencionados representantes han ofrecido á la Oficina que darán los pasos necesarios á fin de suministrarle las obras que necesita.

Se han inscrito en tarjetas los nombres de los mapas y atlas que tenemos, y que son como 85, á fin de catalogar las primeras, con la mira de que los segundos sean más accesibles. Se han visitado otras bibliotecas de Wáshington y se han hecho listas de los mapas en ellas contenidos, que se refieren á la América Central y del Sur. Los nombres de éstos serán también inscritos en tarjetas, las que se incluirán en el ya citado catálogo.

Antes del 1° de setiembre de 1899, se recibían 1,034 periódicos. De este número la Oficina se subscribía á 19, y 54 le eran enviados en calidad de canjes por el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. Ahora se reciben con regularidad, ya por subscripciones, como canjes ó gratuitamente, 1,725 periódicos, incluyendo los diarios.

En adelante se publicarán listas semestrales de las nuevas obras que se reciban las cuales serán enviadas á las bibliotecas, oficinas públicas y personas que las deseen.

El interés que han mostrado en esta Oficina y la cordial ayuda que le han dado, no solamente los Ministerios del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, sino también todos los Gobiernos de las repúblicas latinoamericanas y sus empleados diplomáticos y consulares en este país, son cada día más notables y valiosos, y además de facilitar los trabajos de la Oficina, la hacen más útil, ensanchan su esfera de acción y ponen de manifiesto, de una manera enfática, tanto su carácter esencialmente internacional, como lo estrecho de la Unión.

Si se toman en consideración los servicios que la Oficina ha prestado durante los diez años de su existencia, y los que puede prestar en lo futuro á todas las repúblicas de la América del Norte y del Sur que hoy se interesan activamente en sus trabajos, debemos estar seguros de que las esperanzas concebidas por los que proyectaron su fundación se realizarán con ventaja, y de que será un agente poderoso para promover, mediante un conocimiento más perfecto y amplio de los varios países de este continente, sus habitantes, sus labores y sus ideas, no solamente recíprocas relaciones comerciales, benéficas á todos, abriendo nuevos mercados á los productos de cada uno, sino para hacer más fuertes los lazos de amistad y confianza que ligan á todos los países de la Unión Internacional.

Tengo la honra de ser, Señores, vuestro obediente servidor,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director.*

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Al inaugurarse las sesiones del quinquagésimo sexto Congreso de los Estados Unidos, el Presidente McKinley le dirigió el mensaje de costumbre. De dicho documento se toman los siguientes párrafos:

PROSPERIDAD DEL PAÍS.

"El quinquagésimo sexto Congreso, al dar principio á su sesión ordinaria, encuentra al país en condiciones de extraordinaria prosperidad y de armonía entre sus habitantes así como en relaciones de paz y amistad con todos los gobiernos del mundo. Nuestro comercio exterior ha aumentado mucho en volumen y en valor. Las importaciones y exportaciones combinadas de este año son las mayores que se han visto en nuestra historia durante un solo año. Nuestras exportaciones en 1899 solamente excedieron en más de un billón de dollars á nuestras importaciones y exportaciones combinadas en 1870. Las importaciones, por cabeza, son 20 por ciento menos que en 1870, mientras que las exportaciones, por cabeza, son 58 por ciento más que en 1870, lo cual demuestra que los Estados Unidos pueden no sólo satisfacer las necesidades de su creciente población, sino contribuir á proveer á las de otras naciones.

"La exportación de productos agrícolas fué por valor de $784,776,142. La de artículos manufacturados ascendió á $339,592,146, siendo mayor que en el año precedente. Es digno de notar el hecho de que los únicos años en nuestra historia en que nuestras manufacturas vendidas en el exterior excedieron á las que allá se compraron son 1898 y 1899.

"Los ingresos del Gobierno provenientes de todas fuentes durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, incluyendo $11,798,314.14 pagados á cuenta de lo que adeuda el Central Pacific Railroad (Ferrocarril Central del Pacífico), arrojan un total de $610,982,004.35. Las entradas de aduanas montaron á $206,128,481.75, y las de la renta interior á $273,437,161.51.

"Los egresos durante el año económico asciendieron á $700,093,564.02, y dejaron un déficit de $89,111,559.67.

"La Secretaría de Hacienda calcula que los ingresos durante el presente año económico subirán á $640,958,112. Tomando como base el presupuesto votado, los egresos montarán á $600,958,112, lo cual dejará un superávit de $40,000,000.

"En el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899 los ingresos provenientes de la renta interior aumentaron como en $100,000,000.

"El estado satisfactorio de la Tesorería se demuestra con el hecho de que el 1º de diciembre de 1899 el balance en caja disponible era de $278,004,837.72, de los cuales $239,744,905.36 estaban en oro acuñado y

en barras. La confianza que reina por todo el país ha hecho más general el uso del oro, y los derechos de aduana se pagan ahora casi exclusivamente en dicho metal.

"La fuerte posición de la Tesorería en cuanto á dinero en caja, y la favorable condición de las rentas han permitido al Secretario de Hacienda obrar según lo dispuesto en la sección 3694 de los Revised Statutes (Estatutos Revisados), relativamente al fondo de amortización. Los ingresos excedieron á los egresos durante los cinco primeros meses del presente año económico en $13,413,389.91, y, según dije atrás, la Secretaría de Hacienda calcula que habrá un superávit de cerca de $40,000,000 al terminar el año. En tales circunstancias se creyó conveniente y propio volver otra vez al cumplimiento de lo dispuesto por la ley sobre fondo de amortización, lo cual, durante ocho años, no se había podido hacer por lo deficiente de los ingresos. La Secretaría de Hacienda, por lo mismo, ofreció comprar en el mes de noviembre, al precio corriente del mercado, bonos del empréstito del 5 por ciento, que vence en 1904, por valor de $25,000,000, ó igual cantidad en bonos del empréstito amortizable del 4 por ciento, que vence en 1907. La cantidad ofrecida y comprada en noviembre fué de $18,408,600. El premio pagado por el Gobierno en estas compras ascendió á $2,263,521 y la economía neta por lo que toca á intereses, fué como de $2,885,000. El buen éxito de esta operación es bastante para inducir al Gobierno á llevar adelante su ofrecimiento de comprar bonos hasta el 23 de diciembre corriente, inclusive, á no ser que el resto de los $25,000,000 que se ofreció comprar, sea presentado durante este período para ser redimido.

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MANTENIMIENTO DEL PATRÓN DE ORO.

"Con urgencia recomiendo que á fin de conservar el actual patrón de oro y de mantener 'la proporción en el valor de las monedas de los dos metales (oro y plata) y el mismo valor siempre en cada dollar, tanto en el mercado como para el pago de deudas,' se den al Secretario de Hacienda facultades adicionales para vender bonos de los Estados Unidos y hacer uso de otros medios eficaces que se consideren necesarios para los fines indicados. Dicha autorización debe abrazar la facultad de vender bonos á largos y á cortos plazos, según las circunstancias lo exijan, y debería fijarse un tipo de interés más bajo que el señalado por la ley de 14 de enero de 1875. No hay en la actualidad pánico comercial que haga retirar el oro de las arcas nacionales, sino que al contrario la confianza es tan general, que dicho metal va á la Tesorería para ser cambiado por papel moneda; pero esta misma situación parece indicar que es éste el momento más oportuno para tomar disposiciones adecuadas á fin de asegurar la continuación del patrón de oro y la confianza pública en la habilidad y propósito del Gobierno de hacer frente á todas sus obligaciones en la moneda que el mundo civi-

lizado reconoce como la mejor. Las transacciones económicas del Gobierno se hacen con el oro por base. Recibimos oro cuando vendemos bonos de los Estados Unidos y empleamos oro para pagarlos. Conservamos la proporción entre todas las monedas acuñadas ó emitidas por autoridad del Gobierno, y todo esto lo hacemos con los medios que tenemos á la mano. Felizmente, no nos vemos compelidos en la actualidad á recurrir á empréstitos para proveernos de oro. Sin embargo, esto se ha hecho en lo pasado y puede ser necesario hacerlo en lo futuro. Nos importa, pues, excogitar desde luego los mejores medios de hacer frente á la emergencia cuando se presente, y los mejores medios son aquéllos que al par que son los más ciertos, son también los más económicos. Los de que ahora podemos disponer no tienen la ventaja de la economía ni de la precisión. Ya hemos eliminado una de las causas de nuestras dificultades económicas en los años de 1893, 1894, 1895 y 1896. Nuestros ingresos igualan ahora á nuestros egresos, y ya no es motivo de alarma lo deficiente de nuestras rentas.

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LA MARINA MERCANTE.

"La importancia de nuestra marina mercante como un medio de dar incremento á nuestro tráfico y de fortalecer nuestra condición de potencia marítima, debe llamar la inmediata atención del Congreso. Nuestro desarrollo nacional no será enteramente satisfactorio mientras nuestras industrias no se vean acompañadas de un progreso equivalente en nuestro tráfico marítimo. Existe suficiente autoridad constitucional para emitir leyes que den al país fuerza marítima proporcionada á sus adelantos industriales y á su puesto entre las naciones de la tierra.

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"Durante el año pasado, los buques americanos transportaron menor cantidad de nuestras importaciones que en cualquier otro año de nuestra historia, y nuestro pueblo vió con tristeza hasta donde dependíamos de la marina mercante de otros países. * * *

LÍMITES ENTRE CHILE Y LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

"La antigua cuestión de límites entre la República Argentina y Chile fué resuelta en marzo próximo pasado por el laudo de una comisión arbitral, en la cual el Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires sirvió como tercero en discordia.

TRATADO DE EXTRADICIÓN CON LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

"Se ha adelantado mucho en el sentido de celebrar un tratado de extradición con la República Argentina. Habiendo sido aprobado por el Senado de los Estados Unidos y ratificado por la República Argentina, lo único que se requiere para efectuar el canje es llegar á un convenio relativo á ligeras alteraciones en el texto. * * *

RELACIONES CORDIALES CON EL BRASIL.

"El tratado de extradición celebrado con el Brasil el 14 de mayo de 1897 ha sido ratificado por el congreso brasileño.

"Durante el verano pasado dos buques de guerra de los Estados Unidos visitaron algunos puertos del Brasil en amistosa misión, y fueron cordialmente recibidos. El viaje del *Wilmington* arriba del Amazonas ocasionó una mala inteligencia pasajera, debido á cierta confusión en cuanto á obtener permiso para visitar el interior del país y hacer estudios de interés general á la navegación, pero el incidente se arregló fácilmente de conformidad con las estrechas relaciones de amistad que este Gobierno ha tratado asiduamente de cultivar con las naciones del Continente Occidental.

SENTIMIENTOS AMISTOSOS DE COLOMBIA.

"La reclamación á que dió lugar el embargo por las autoridades de Colombia, del periódico "The Panama Star and Herald," propiedad de ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, ha sido arreglada después de una controversia que duró algunos años, mediante un convenio en el cual se fijó en $30,000 la indemnización que el Gobierno colombiano debe pagar, en tres plazos de $10,000 cada uno.

"La buena voluntad de Colombia hacia nuestro país se ha manifestado nuevamente con el hecho de haber ofrecido toda clase de facilidades á la Comisión del Canal de Nicaragua, para los estudios que emprenderá pronto en la ruta de Panamá y en otras proyectadas á través del Istmo de Darién.

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REVOLUCIÓN EN SANTO DOMINGO.

"Después de un largo período de tranquilidad, la vecina República de Santo Domingo ha sido últimamente teatro de una revolución. Comenzó ésta con el asesinato del Presidente HEUREAUX en el mes de julio próximo pasado, y terminó con haberse rendido á los insurrectos el Vicepresidente que le sucedió. El primer acto del Gobierno provisional fué llamar al país á una elección de presidente y de asamblea constituyente. JUAN ISIDRO JIMÉNEZ fué electo Presidente y tomó posesión de su cargo el 14 de noviembre. Se han establecido relaciones con el nuevo Gobierno.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, Y EL SALVADOR.

"La unión, á manera de experimento, entre Nicaragua, Honduras y El Salvador, bajo el nombre de República Mayor de Centro América, fué rota en los últimos días de noviembre de 1898 con la separación de El Salvador, en momentos en que parecía que estaba á punto de efectuarse una organización federal perfecta, mediante la adopción de una constitución y la elección de una legislatura nacional. Con motivo de la

actitud de El Salvador, Nicaragua y Honduras renunciaron al pacto y cada uno de estos estados reasumió su condición de nación independiente y soberana. Después de esto el Ministro MERRY fué recibido por las Repúblicas de Nicaragua y El Salvador, y el Ministro HUNTER, á su vez, presentó sus credenciales al Gobierno de Honduras, volviendo así á establecerse el antiguo sistema de representación diplomática de los Estados Unidos en la América Central, de conformidad con lo que disponen nuestras leyes. Un representante de Nicaragua ha sido acreditado ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

NEGOCIOS DE NICARAGUA.

"Una insurrección encabezada por el General REYES estalló en Bluefields en el mes de febrero próximo pasado, y por algún tiempo estuvo en posesión efectiva del territorio de Mosquitia. Con toda diligencia se envió á aquel puerto el buque de guerra *Detroit* á proteger los intereses americanos. Después de unas pocas semanas, el gobierno de REYES renunció á la lucha y la supremacía de Nicaragua fué restablecida. Durante el interregno, las autoridades que ejercían el poder administrativo recaudaron de los comerciantes americanos algunos derechos que debían conforme á las leyes de Nicaragua. Al restablecerse el gobierno legítimo, se exigió de nuevo el pago de dichos derechos. De aquí se originó una controversia sobre la validez del pago primitivo hecho al gobierno *de facto* del territorio. En abril próximo pasado se efectuó un arreglo entre el Ministro de los Estados Unidos y el Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores de Nicaragua, mediante el cual la cantidad doblemente cobrada fué depositada en manos del Cónsul británico, mientras se llega á una solución de la cuestión por medio de un arreglo directo entre los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y Nicaragua. La controversia aun está pendiente.

EL CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

"El contrato de la Compañía de Canal Marítimo de Nicaragua fué declarado caduco por el Gobierno nicaragüense el 10 de octubre próximo pasado, fundándose dicha declaración en que no se había cumplido con lo estipulado en dicho instrumento dentro del término de diez años, que en el mismo se fija. La Compañía de Canal Marítimo ha protestado contra aquella resolución, alegando que tiene derechos en el asunto, los cuales parecen dignos de ser tomados en consideración. Este Gobierno espera que Nicaragua tratará á los interesados en el caso de una manera justa é imparcial.

"Como la Comisión de Canal de Nicaragua que había estado ocupada en examinar y estudiar la ruta para un canal interoceánico á través de aquel país, terminó sus trabajos y presentó su informe, fué disuelta el 31 de mayo, y el 10 de julio una nueva comisión, con el nombre de Comisión de Canal por el Istmo, fué organizada de conformidad con lo que dispone la ley de 3 de marzo de 1899. El objeto de esta comisión es

examinar el istmo americano con el fin de determinar cuál es la ruta por donde un canal es más factible á través del istmo, haciendo un cálculo de lo que probablemente costaría y resolviendo otros puntos esenciales.

"Esta comisión, bajo la presidencia del Contraalmirante JOHN WALKER, de la Marina de los Estados Unidos (retirado), dió sin tardanza principio á sus trabajos, y está actualmente haciendo estudios en Nicaragua, en la ruta del Canal de Panamá y en Darién, desde el Atlántico, en la vecindad del rió Atrato, hasta la Bahía de Panamá, en el Pacífico. El progreso que se ha hecho es muy satisfactorio, pero la ley exige que el estudio sea perfecto, lo cual va á requerir mucho tiempo y trabajo. El estudio se hará de la manera más breve posible y, tan pronto como sea practicable, se presentará un informe.

"No se puede llamar con demasiada frecuencia ni con demasiada insistencia la atención del Congreso hacia este importante particular. En el mensaje que os dirigí hace un año manifesté mi modo de ver sobre la necesidad de construir un canal que una los dos grandes océanos, asunto que de nuevo someto ahora á vuestra consideración. Las razones que entonces os dí en apoyo de una resolución inmediata son hoy más poderosas aun.

ACCIÓN GENEROSA DE CHILE.

"La generosa ayuda que el Gobierno de Chile ofreció al barco de guerra *Newark* cuando se hallaba en peligro en aguas chilenas, fué un incidente muy satisfactorio en nuestras relaciones con aquel país; y no es solamente en este caso que Chile ha mostrado sus sentimientos amistosos respecto á nosotros, pues ha adherido á la convención celebrada para el establecimiento de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, de la cual forman parte todas las naciones del continente.

RESTABLECIMIENTO DE LA COMISION DE RECLAMACIONES.

"El canje de las ratificaciones de la convención para el restablecimiento de la Comisión de Reclamaciones entre Chile y los Estados Unidos y para adjudicar las reclamaciones que han sido presentadas hasta hoy, pero sobre las cuales nada se resolvió durante la existencia de la comisión anterior, ha sido diferido, porque es necesario que el Senado chileno emita su juicio relativamente á las modificaciones hechas por el de los Estados Unidos al ratificar el tratado. Este requisito se llevará á efecto antes de poco tiempo.

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ESTRECHEZ CRECIENTE DE NUESTRAS RELACIONES CON MÉXICO.

"Este año ha sido notable por el constante incremento de nuestras relaciones con México y por la magnitud del intercambio entre las dos naciones para provecho mutuo. Este Gobierno no ha omitido opor-

tunidad alguna para mostrar sus deseos de hacer más fuertes y duraderos los lazos de amistad que felizmente han unido á ambas repúblicas por tan largo tiempo.

"Después de que México declaró terminado, el 20 de enero de 1899, el tratado de extradición celebrado el 11 de diciembre de 1861, se firmó, el 22 de febrero del año corriente, un nuevo tratado, más de acuerdo con las necesidades reconocidas de ambos países, y las ratificaciones del mismo fueron canjeadas en la ciudad de México el 22 de abril próximo pasado. Hasta la fecha dicho tratado ha dado resultados eficaces y satisfactorios. Últimamente se presentó un caso que pusó á prueba la aplicación del Artículo IV, en el cual se estipula que ninguna de las partes contratantes está obligada á entregar á sus propios ciudadanos, pero que el Poder Ejecutivo de cada una tiene derecho para resolver lo que estime de justicia sobre el particular.

"Después de madura consideración, ordené la extradición de Mrs. MATTIE RICH, ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, acusada en México de homicidio, por creer que servía de esta manera los intereses de la justicia. Actos semejantes por parte del Gobierno mexicano, siempre que se presente una ocasion para ejecutarlos, no solamente tenderán á satisfacer el deseo que ambos países tienen de que graves crímenes no queden impunes, sino que contribuirán á suprimir los desórdenes en las fronteras de ambos países. En el nuevo tratado se estipula que ninguno de los dos Gobiernos se considerará autorizado para castigar crímenes cometidos exclusivamente en el territorio del otro. Esto impedirá que en lo futuro se susciten controversias desagradables, como las que han ocurrido antes, debidas á que México se creía con derecho para juzgar y castigar á ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos por delitos cometidos dentro de la jurisdicción de este país.

"La Comisión Internacional de Límite Fluvial (International Water Boundary Commission), organizada de acuerdo con la convención de 1° de marzo de 1889, para el arreglo de las cuestiones relacionadas con la frontera del Río Grande, no ha terminado sus trabajos todavía. Mediante una convención firmada el 2 de diciembre de 1898 y canjeada y promulgada en febrero próximo pasado, se prorrogó el plazo de dicha Comisión por un año, esto es, hasta el 24 de diciembre del año en curso.

"Con motivo de la colocación de la piedra angular del edificio del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en Chicago, se dirigió una invitación en el mes de octubre próximo pasado, al Presidente de México para que visitara dicha ciudad, invitación que fué cordialmente aceptada por él, después de haber obtenido el consentimiento del Congreso mexicano, pero la enfermedad de un miembro de su familia no le permitió encontrarse presente en aquella ocasión. Sin embargo, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores vinó como representante personal del Presidente DÍAZ, y en su elevado carácter recibió las atenciones que le eran debidas.

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NEGOCIOS DE CUBA.

"Mi mensaje anual del año pasado fué dedicado necesariamente, en gran parte, á tratar de la guerra con España, de sus resultados y de las condiciones que crea para lo futuro. Tengo la satisfacción de anunciaros que el tratado de paz ha restablecido las relaciones amistosas entre las dos naciones. Las más importantes estipulaciones de dicho tratado se han llevado ya á efecto. Habiéndose efectuado la evacuación de Puerto Rico el 18 de octubre de 1898, no era necesario hacer otra cosa que mantener provisionalmente la autoridad militar en la isla, hasta que el Congreso no haya resuelto qué clase de gobierno es el más aparente para el territorio cedido. En otra parte de este mensaje hago referencia al carácter y alcance que deben tener las medidas que se dicten acerca de este particular.

"La autoridad de España se retiró de la isla de Cuba el 1° de enero, y al restablecerse la paz, nos encontramos con el territorio á que dicha potencia había renunciado en nuestro poder, á manera de obligación fiduciaria respecto á los habitantes. Teníamos que mantener, bajo la dirección del Ejecutivo, el sistema de gobierno más adecuado á la conservación del órden público y al restablecimiento de las condiciones productoras que la paz acarrea, perturbadas por largo tiempo, á causa de la intranquilidad y el desorden que prevalecieron durante la mayor parte de las últimas tres décadas. Debíamos asimismo establecer la marcha tranquila de los negocios interiores de la isla, mediante lo cual solamente es posible realizar el alto propósito expuesto en la resolución conjunta adoptada por el Congreso el 19 de abril de 1898, en la cual los Estados Unidos declaran que no abrigan intención ó deseo alguno de ejercer soberanía, jurisdicción ó dominio en Cuba, excepto para el efecto de su pacificación, y afirman que cuando esto se haya llevado á cabo, dejarán el gobierno y dominio de la isla á sus habitantes. La promesa contenida en dicha resolución encierra un compromiso de honor, y debe ser cumplida religiosamente.

"Creo que se ha adelantado mucho en el sentido indicado. Todas las medidas administrativas que se han dictado en Cuba han tendido á adaptala á su condición de pueblo regenerado, estableciendo la supremacía de la ley y la justicia, poniéndo la maquinaria administrativa en manos de los habitantes, cuandoquiera que esto ha sido practicable, introduciendo reformas sanitarias que se necesitaban, extendiendo la educación, fomentando la industria y el comercio, inculcando la moral pública, y, en una palabra, dando todos los pasos racionales para ayudar á los cubanos á elevarse á ese nivel de respeto propio y de confianza en su unificación que hacen á un pueblo culto digno de un gobierno autónomo y le permiten cumplir con sus deberes hacia las otras naciones.

"Este país ha asumido ante el mundo una grave responsabilidad en cuanto al gobierno futuro de la isla de Cuba. Hemos aceptado una obligación cuyo cumplimiento requiere la mayor integridad y el más alto criterio. La Cuba nueva que ha de levantarse de las cenizas del

pasado debe estar ligada á nosotros por fuertes y estrechos lazos, si su bienestar ha de ser duradero. Ya sean estos lazos de carácter orgánico ó convencional, los destinos de Cuba están de cierto modo unidos irrevocablemente á los nuestros, pero hasta dónde alcanzará esta unión, el porvenir lo resolverá, á medida que se desarrollen los acontecimientos. Sea lo que fuere, debemos hacer que Cuba libre sea una realidad, no simplemente un nombre, una entidad perfecta, no un experimento destinado á fracasar. No cumpliríamos con la misión que nos hemos propuesto y la cual nos llevó hasta la guerra, si dejásemos á un pueblo imperfectamente organizado, abandonado y expuesto á las vicisitudes á que á menudo están expuestos los estados débiles cuya riqueza natural y abundantes recursos se ven contrabalanceados por la falta de consistencia en su organización política y por frecuentes luchas intestinas que minan su vitalidad y destruyen su energía. El mayor beneficio que puede venirle á Cuba es el restablecimiento de su prosperidad agrícola é industrial, que dará empleo á los que no lo tienen y contribuirá á la restauración de la paz. Ésta es su más ingente é inmediata necesidad.

"El 19 de agosto próximo pasado se expidió una órden para que se levantara el censo de la isla, el cual debía estar terminado el 30 de noviembre. Según el tratado de paz, los españoles residentes en la isla pueden, hasta el 11 de Abril do 1900, resolver si desean permanecer como ciudadones de España ó de Cuba. Hasta entonces no se podrá decidir definitivamente quienes tienen derecho á participar en la organización del gobierno de Cuba. Cuando esto se verifique el resultado del censo se expondrá en cuadros sinópticos, y procederemos á hacer elecciones que pongan el gobierno municipal de la isla en manos de los elegidos del pueblo. La experiencia que con esto se obtenga será muy valiosa para organizar más tarde una convención representativa del pueblo, que formule una constitución y establezca un sistema de gobierno independiente para la isla. En el intermedio, y mientras ejerzamos dominio sobre la isla, los productos de Cuba deben entrar á los Estados Unidos en las mismas condiciones y pagando los mismos derechos que los de de las otras Antillas, de acuerdo con los tratados de reciprocidad que se celebrarán.

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"De los ingresos producidos por la isla de Cuba durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, se gastaron $1,712,014.20 en medidas sanitarias; $293,881.70 en obras de benficencia y hospitales, y $88,944.43 en socorrer á los desvalidos.

RELACIONES CON ESPAÑA.

"Tan luego se hubieron canjeado las ratificaciones del tratado de paz, cada gobierno acreditó un representante ante el otro. España envió á Washingtón al Duke DE ARCOS, distinguido diplomático que antes había representado á su patria en México, y este país envió á Madrid al

Hon. BELLAMY STORER, que era Ministro en Bruselas. A continuación los respectivos gobiernos nombraron cónsules, y de esta manera se restablecieron por completo las relaciones interrumpidas por la guerra. Además de su representación consular en los Estados Unidos, el gobierno español ha nombrado cónsules para Cuba, que han sido reconocidos provisionalmente mientras dura la administración militar en la isla.

"De conformidad con lo que dispone el tratado de paz, se han establecido relaciones judiciales entre los tribunales de Cuba y Puerto Rico y los de España. España ha puesto y continúa poniendo en libertad á los prisioneros políticos cubanos, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el Artículo VI del mismo tratado. Pronto se entablarán negociaciones con el fin de definir las relaciones convencionales entre los dos países, interrumpidas por la guerra. Abrigo la esperanza de que dichas negociaciones abrazarán un convenio favorable de reciprocidad comercial, de conformidad con lo dispuesto en las secciones 3ª y 4ª del Arancel de Aduanas vigente. En esto, como en otros asuntos de interés internacional, no se economizará esfuerzo alguno para corresponder á las buenas disposiciones de España, á fin de cultivar por todos los medios posibles las íntimas relaciones que deben existir entre dos naciones cuya historia atestigua á menudo y de múltiples maneras, amistad sincera y comunidad de intereses.

Os recomiendo que adoptéis las medidas necesarias para llevar á efecto el Artículo VII del tratado de paz con España, por el cual los Estados Unidos se comprometieron á pagar ciertas reclamaciones de sus ciudadanos contra aquella nacion.

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LIMITES ENTRE VENEZUELA Y LA GUAYANA INGLESA.

La Comisión Internacional de Arbitraje, nombrada de conformidad con el tratado anglo-venezolano de 1897, emitió su laudo el 3 de octubre último, fijando la línea divisoria entre Venezuela y la Guayana inglesa, con lo cual se pone término á una controversia que ha existido durante la mayor parte del siglo. Aunque el laudo, que fué unánime, no satisface las pretensiones extremas de ninguna de las partes, da á la Gran Bretaña una gran parte de territorio interior en disputa, y á Venezuela toda la boca del Orinoco, incluyendo Punta Barima y el litoral sobre el Mar Caribe, por alguna distancia hacia el oriente. El laudo parece que es satisfactorio para ambas partes.

NEGOCIOS DE VENEZUELA.

"Venezuela ha sido el teatro de otra revolución. Después de una batalla sangrienta en que sufrieron grandes pérdidas, los insurrectos al mando del General CASTRO, se reorganizaron en las montañas y avanzaron con dirección á la capital. Como la mayor parte del ejército se declaró en favor del movimiento revolucionario, el Presidente ANDRADE abandonó á Caracas, y el General CASTRO estableció allí un gobierno

provisional, con el cual nuestro Ministro y los representantes de otras naciones entraron en relaciones diplomáticas el 20 de noviembre próximo pasado.

TRATADOS DE RECIPROCIDAD COMERCIAL.

"La sección cuarta del Arancel de Aduanas, ratificado el 24 de julio de 1897, dispone que solamente se lleven á efecto aquellos tratados comerciales que sean celebrados por el Presidente y ratificados por el Senado dentro de un período de dos años, á partir de la ratificación de dicho arancel. Debido á dilaciones inevitables en asuntos de esta naturaleza, ninguno de los tratados negociados de acuerdo con la citada sección, pudo ser concluido á tiempo de que el Senado lo ratificara, antes de suspender sus sesiones el 4 de marzo próximo pasado. Sin embargo, las negociaciones pendientes estaban por concluirse en aquella época, y de entonces acá los plenipotenciarios han firmado los tratados en referencia. Otros están en consideración, de conformidad con lo que disponen las secciones 3ª y 4ª del mencionado Arancel. Obrando de acuerdo con los poderes constitucionales que el Ejecutivo tiene relativamente á los tratados, creí que era mi deber, manteniéndome dentro de los límites de las concesiones señaladas por la sección cuarta del Arancel, el concluir todas las negociaciones pendientes y someterlas al Senado para su aprobación.

"Mientras que el Congreso no ha estado en sesión, se han celebrado tratados de reciprocidad con la Gran Bretaña relativos á sus colonias de la Guayana, la Barbada, las Bermudas, Jamaica, las islas de Turcos y de Caicos y con la República de Nicaragua.

"También se han concluido importantes tratados de reciprocidad con Francia y con la República Argentina.

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UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

"El interés que las naciones que forman la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas toman en los trabajos de su Oficina se evidencia por el hecho de que, por primera vez desde su fundación en 1890, todas las repúblicas de la América Central y del Sur están reprentadas en ella.

"La recomendación unánime de la Conferencia Internacional Americana relativa á la fundación de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, dice que esta Unión continuará en vigor durante el término de diez años, contados desde la fecha de su organización, y que ningún país que entre como miembro de dicha Unión dejará de serlo, mientras que no haya transcurrido ese período de diez años, y, á menos que doce meses antes de que espire dicho plazo, una mayoría de los miembros de la Unión haya dado aviso oficial al Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos de sus deseos de terminar la Unión al concluir el primer período, aquélla continuará y será mantenida por otro período

de diez años, y así sucesivamente, bajo las mismas condiciones, por períodos sucesivos de diez años cada uno. El período para dicha notificación terminó el 14 de julio de 1899, sin que ninguno de los miembros de la Unión hubiese dado aviso de que quería separarse de ella.

"Por tanto, su existencia durante diez años más está asegurada. En vista de este hecho y de las numerosas cuestiones de interés general para todas las Repúblicas Americanas, algunas de las cuales fueron tomadas en consideración por la pasada Conferencia Internacional Americana, pero no resueltas definitivamente, y otras han adquirido desde aquella época mayor importancia, parece conveniente que todas las Repúblicas que forman la Unión sean invitadas á celebrar otra conferencia antes de mucho tiempo, en la capital de alguna de ellas, con excepción de los Estados Unidos, que ya tuvieron la honra de ver en Wáshingtón la antedicha Conferencia.

"El carácter puramente internacional de los trabajos de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, y la importancia que á ellos se da, se manifiestan de una manera enfática con el interés que los gobiernos de la América latina y sus representantes diplomáticos en esta capital manifiestan en los mismos, y con los esfuerzos que hacen para extender la esfera de acción de la mencionada Oficina, á fin promover por medio de ella las relaciones comerciales y fortalezer los lazos de amistad y confianza que unen á las naciones de este Continente.

EXPOSICIÓN PAN AMERICANA.

"La ley relativa á la celebración de una Exposición Pan-Americana el año de 1901 en la frontera de los Estados Unidos bañada por el Niágara, dentro de los límites del condado de Erie ó Niágara, en el Estado de Nueva York, fué ratificada el 3 de marzo de 1899.

"Esta Exposición que se verificará en la ciudad de Búfalo, cerca de la gran catarata del Niágara, á una jornada de la cual residen 40,000,000 de habitantes, se limitará al hemisferio occidental. Se han recibido contestaciones satisfactorias de los representes diplomáticos de la Gran Bretaña, México, las Repúblicas de la América Central y del Sur, así como de la mayor parte de los Estados de la Unión, prometiéndo que harán exhibiciones especiales, interesantes é instructivas, con el fin de poner de manifiesto los progresos que han hecho durante el siglo que está para terminar.

"En dicha ley se señala la cantidad de $500,000 para la exhibición oficial que harán en esa Exposición los Ministerios del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, la Smithsonian Institution, la Comisión de Pisciculturay Pesquería, el Departamento del Trabajo y la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas. En orden á que la Exhibición del Gobierno sea completa y simétrica, se ha nombrado una Junta Admistrativa que está encargada de escoger, comprar, preparar, transportar, arreglar y conservar los objetos que se han de exhibir. Dicha Junta se ha organizada ya y ha dado principio á sus trabajos de conformidad con lo que dispone la ley.

"Tengo razones para creer que esta Exposición tenderá á fortalezer las cordiales relaciones que existen entre las naciones de este Continente.

EXPOSICIÓN DE ARTÍCULOS PARA LA EXPORTACIÓN.

"De acuerdo con una ley del Congreso ratificada el 21 de diciembre de 1898, y bajo los auspicios del Museo Comercial de Filadelfia, se celebró en aquella ciudad, del 14 de setiembre al 1° de diciembre de este año, una Exposición muy interesante de productos y manufacturas que especialmente se adaptan al tráfico de exportación. La naturaleza de los objetos exhibidos y el gran interés manifestado en la Exposición sirven de estímulo á aquéllos que tienen confianza en que la exportación de nuestras manufacturas continuará en aumeto, exportación que ha sido el hecho más notable en el desarrollo económico de los Estados Unidos en los últimos años. Uno de los resultados de esta Exposición, que probablemente será permanente y de gran utilidad para nuestras industrias, es la colección de muestras de artículos producidos en diferentes países y destinados á mercados especiales. Dicha colección servirá á los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos como una lección objetiva, en cuanto á la calidad, estilo y precio de los efectos que satisfacen al consumidor y pueden ser exportados con ventaja.

CONGRESO COMERCIAL INTERNACIONAL.

"Junto con la Exposición se verificó la reunión de un Congreso Comercial Internacional, mediante una invitación que, por conducto del Departamento de Estado, dirigió el Museo Comercial de Filadelfia á los gobiernos extranjeros. El objeto de dicho Congreso fué cambiar informaciones y opiniones con el fin de promover el comercio internacional. La invitación fué general y cordialmente aceptada, y el Congreso, que dió principio á sus sesiones en la Exposición el 13 de octubre, demostró ser de gran importancia práctica, pues hizo que se reconociera el hecho de que las naciones dependen unas de otras en cuanto al tráfico, y dió pruebas del más satisfactorio espíritu de conciliación en cuanto á remover gradualmente los obstáculos que en la actualidad existen en las relaciones mercantiles de las naciones, sin que se perjudiquen con esto los intereses de ninguna.

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LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.

"El 10 de diciembre de 1898 se firmó un tratado de paz entre los Estados Unidos y España. Entre otras cosas, dispone que España debe ceder á los Estados Unidos el archipiélago conocido con el nombre de Islas Filipinas; que los Estados Unidos deben pagar á España la suma de veinte millones de *dollars*, y que los derechos civiles y políticos de los habitantes nativos del territorio cedido á los Estados Unidos, deben ser determinados por el Congreso. El tratado fué ratificado por el Senado el 6 de febrero de este año, y por el Gobierno de España

el 19 de marzo siguiente. Las ratificaciones fueron canjeadas el 11 de abril y el tratado fué debidamente promulgado. El 2 de marzo el Congreso mandó que se pagase la suma fijada en el tratado, la cual fué entregada al Gobierno español el 1° de mayo.

"De esta manera las Filipinas pasaron al dominio de los Estados Unidos. Las Islas fueron cedidas por el Gobierno de España, que había estado en indisputable posesión de ellas durante siglos enteros. La cesión fué aceptada no solamente por nuestros Comisionados en París, debidamente autorizados y bajo la dirección del Ejecutivo, sino también por una resolución constitucional, bien meditada, de los representantes del pueblo de los Estados Unidos en las dos Cámaras del Congreso. Tuve entonces razones para creer y creo todavía, que este traspaso de soberanía fué de acuerdo con los deseos y aspiraciones de la gran masa del pueblo filipino.

"Desde un principio no se perdió oportunidad de asegurar á los habitantes de las islas que nuestro más ardiente deseo era la realización de su bienestar, y que la intención de este Gobierno era hacer todo lo posible en favor de dichas islas. En la orden que dirigí el 19 de mayo de 1898 al comandante de la expedición militar enviada á las Filipinas, le dí instrucciones de que declarase que no íbamos á hacer la guerra al pueblo de aquel país 'ni á ningún partido ó facción, sino á proteger á los habitantes en sus hogares, en sus ocupaciones y en sus derechos individuales y religiosos.' En orden á no dejar duda relativamente á la autoridad dominante en aquel país, se ordenó el 17 de agosto que 'no debía haber ocupación conjunta con los insurrectos;' que los Estados Unidos debían conservar la paz y proteger á las personas y propiedades dentro del territorio ocupado por sus fuerzas militares y navales, y que los insurrectos y los demás habitantes debían reconocer la ocupación militar y la autoridad de los Estados Unidos. Antes de la sesión de las Islas, y en previsión de ésta, se pidió con urgencia, el 4 de diciembre, al jefe que comandaba en Manila que restableciese la tranquilidad y la paz y que tratase de establecer un gobierno benéfico que ofreciese absoluta seguridad á las vidas y propiedades.

"El 21 de diciembre, cuando el tratado estaba firmado, se dieron instrucciones al Comandante de las fuerzas de ocupación 'de que proclamase públicamente que habíamos ido, no como invasores y conquistadores, sino como amigos para proteger á los naturales en sus hogares, en sus ocupaciones y en sus derechos individuales y religiosos.' En la misma fecha, al ordenar al General Otis que tratase de conservar la paz en Iloilo, se le dijo lo siguente: 'es de la mayor importancia que no haya conflicto alguno con los insurrectos.' El 1° de enero de este año se reiteró con urgencia la orden de que se hiciese saber á los insurrectos, de cualquier manera posible, que las intenciones de este Gobierno eran amistosas.

"El 21 de enero manifesté que pensaba mandar á Manila una Comisión compuesta de tres caballeros distinguidos y de elevado carácter, cono-

cedores del oriente, los que en unión del Almirante DEWEY y del General OTIS, debían, según las instrucciones que les fueron dadas, 'facilitar de la manera más humanitaria y eficaz la extensión de nuestra autoridad sobre las islas, y dar á los habitantes, dentro del término más corto posible, los beneficios que ocasiona una sabia y generosa protección de la vida y de la propiedad.' Los caballeros á que he hecho referencia fueron el Dr. JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN, Presidente de la Universidad de Cornell, el Honorable CHARLES DENBY, que fué durante muchos años Ministro en China, y el Profesor DEAN C. WORCESTER, de la Univesidad de Michigan, que había hecho el estudio más completo acerca de la vida en las Filipinas. Mientras el Senado tomaba en consideración el tratado de paz, los Comisionados partieron á desempeñar su misión de conciliación y libertad. Su elevado carácter era suficiente garantía de los buenos propósitos que les animaban, aunque no hubieran llevado instrucciones terminantes de este Gobierno, las cuales daban á su cometido una índole esencialmente amistosa.

"Antes de que los Comisionados llegaran á Manila, la siniestra ambición de unos pocos caudillos filipinos produjó una situación embarazosa para nosotros y muy grave en sus consecuencias para ellos. El informe preliminar de los Comisionados, que ahora os envío, es tan claro como imparcial y contiene una relación completa y lúcida del actual movimiento revolucionario, lo que hace innecesario el repetir aquí la historia del mismo. Basta decir que la aserción hecha por el jefe revolucionario de que un oficial de los Estados Unidos le había ofrecido, en cambio de su ayuda, independencia absoluta, no tiene fundamento en los hechos y es negada categóricamente por los mismos que han sido citados como testigos para comprobarla. Lo más que el jefe insurrecto esperaba cuando regresó á Manila, era que se libertase á las islas del domino de España, para obtener lo cual los habitantes habían luchado en vano durante largos años.

"La prontitud con que el ejército y la armada de los Estados Unidos dieron cima á la obra libertadora, inspiró al mencionado caudillo nuevas ideas y estimuló su ambición, al mismo tiempo que indicaciones insidiosas provenientes de diversos puntos, pervirtieron los propósitos é intenciones que lo animaban cuando empuñó las armas. Tan luego hubo nuestro ejército capturado á Manila, las fuerzas filipinas comenzaron á asumir una actitud sospechosa y hostil, que los mayores esfuerzos de nuestros oficiales y soldados fueron incapaces de modificar. Su bondad y tolerancia fueron traducidas como cobardía. Las agresiones de los filipinos fueron en aumento, hasta que al fin, inmediatamente antes de la fecha fijada por el Senado de los Estados Unidos para emitir su resolución sobre el tratado, un ataque, preparado indudablemente de antemano, se hizó á lo largo de toda la línea americana, lo cual dió por resultado una derrota terrible y sangrienta para los insurrectos. Diez dias después el Gobierno insurrecto dirigió á sus partidarios en Manila una orden, de la cual dijó con justicia el General

OTIS que 'por lo bárbaro de sus propósitos nada la iguala en los tiempos modernos.'

"En esa orden se manda que el 15 de febrero, á las ocho de la noche, se reuna en las calles de San Pedro la milicia territorial, armada de bolos, y, si fuese posible, de fusiles y municiones; que solamente se respete á las familias filipinas, y que todas las otras personas, sin distinción de raza, sean exterminadas sin compasión alguna, después de haber acabado con el ejército de ocupación. Á continuación, la orden se expresa de esta manera: 'Hermanos: debemos vengarnos de los americanos y exterminarlos en castigo de las infamias y traiciones que han cometido con nosotros. No tengáis hacia ellos la menor compasión, y atacad con vigor.' Por fortuna una copia de esta orden llegó á poder de nuestros oficiales y pudieron tomar las medidas necesarias para sofocar el levantamiento que se trató de efectuar en la noche del 22 de febrero, esto es, una semana más tarde de la fecha primitivamente fijada. Numerosos insurrectos armados penetraron en la ciudad por diferentes vías, y en unión de los correligionarios que tenían en Manila, trataron de incendiar la población. Se les mantuvo á raya durante la noche, y al día siguiente fueron arrojados de la ciudad con grandes pérdidas.

"Ésta era la desgraciada condición que nuestros Comisionados encontraron al llegar á Manila. Habían llegado con la intención y la esperanza de cooperar con el Almirante DEWEY y con el General OTIS á establecer la paz y el orden en el archipiélago y fundar, hasta donde fuera posible, un gobierno autónomo compatible con el bienestar del pueblo. La situación que encontraron no podría describirse mejor que con sus propias palabras. Helas aquí:

"'Aunque la guerra es deplorable, no era posible para nosotros evitar la que hemos emprendido. Fuimos acometidos por un ejército entusiasta, atrevido y deseoso de adventuras. La única alternativa que nos quedaba era una retirada vergonzosa.

"'No es concebible que exista un americano que hubiera aprobado la rendición de Manila á los insurrectos. Nuestro deber hacia las otras naciones, hacia los filipinos que permanecían á nuestro lado, hacia nosotros mismos y hacia nuestra bandera, exigía que á la fuerza se resistiera con la fuerza. Cualquiera que haya de ser la suerte de las Filipinas, no nos queda otro camino que continuar la guerra mientras los insurrectos no hayan sido vencidos. Opina la Comisión que en ningún tiempo, desde la destrucción de la escuadra española por el Almirante DEWEY, fue posible retirar nuestras fuerzas con honra para nosotros y sin poner en peligro la seguridad de los habitantes.'

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ISLA DE NEGROS.

"Un buen principio ha sido el establecimiento de un gobierno en la isla de Negros, al cual se presta especial atención. Ésta fue la primera isla que aceptó nuestra soberanía. El pueblo declaró sin reserva su

fidelidad á los Estados Unidos y adoptó una constitución con la mira de establecer un gobierno popular. No era posible prometer á los habitantes de dicha isla que la constitución adoptada sería definitiva. De conformidad con el tratado celebrado con España, así como con nuestra Constitución y leyes, ese asunto es exclusivamente del dominio del Congreso. El gobierno establecido por los habitantes de la isla de Negros vino á ser más tarde poco satisfactorio para ellos mismos. Por orden del General de División que comanda aquel departamento, se fundó un nuevo sistema administrativo cuya organización es la siguiente:

"Se ordenó que el gobierno de la isla de Negros consistiera de un gobernador militar nombrado por el gobernador militar de las Filipinas, de un gobernador civil y de un consejo consultivo electo por el pueblo. Se autorizó al gobernador militar para que nombrara secretarios de hacienda, del interior, de agricultura y de instrucción publica, así como un procurador general y un revisor de cuentas. El gobierno reside en Bacolod. El gobernador militar ejerce el supremo poder ejecutivo. Está obligado á ver que se cumplan las leyes; tiene la facultad de nombrar empleados y de llenar todas las vacantes que no hayan sido provistas de otra manera, pudiendo además, con la aprobacion del gobernador militar de las Filipinas, remover á cualquier empleado. El gobernador civil actúa como consejero del gobernador militar en todos los asuntos civiles de interés público, y es presidente del consejo consultivo. En general, á él le corresponden las funciones que desempeñan los secretarios de estado en nuestro sistema de gobierno.

"El consejo consultivo consta de ocho miembros electos por el pueblo dentro de los límites territoriales fijados en la orden del general que comanda aquel departamento.

"La fecha y los lugares en que se han de verificar las elecciones serán fijados por el gobernador de la isla de Negros.

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LAS ISLAS SULÚ.

"Las autoridades de las islas Sulú han aceptado la sustitución de la soberanía de los Estados Unidos por la de España, y nuestra bandera flota sobre aquel teritorio. El 10 de agosto de este año el Brigadier J. C. BATES, del ejército de voluntarios de los Estados Unidos, celebró un convenio con el Sultán y sus principales jefes, el cual os remito ahora. En el artículo primero de dicho convenio se reconoce y establece la soberanía de los Estados Unidos sobre todo el archipiélago de Jolo y sus dependencias.

"La bandera de los Estados Unidos será usada en el archipiélago y sus dependencias, tanto en tierra como en agua. Debe suprimirse la piratería, y el Sultán conviene en cooperar activamente con las autoridades de los Estados Unidos para alcanzar ese fin, y en hacer todos los esfuerzos necesarios para reducir á prisión y llevar ante la justicia á

todas las personas culpables de aquel delito. Todo el tráfico en productos domésticos del archipiélago de Jolo, cuando se haga con cualquier punto de las islas Filipinas y bajo la bandera de los Estados Unidos, será libre é ilimitado y no será gravado con derechos. Los Estados Unidos se comprometen á dar amplia protección al Sultán, en caso que se vea amenazado por una nación extranjera. Los Estados Unidos no venderán la isla de Jolo ni ninguna de las del archipiélago del mismo nombre á ninguna nación extranjera, sin el consentimiento del Sultán. Se convino en que el sueldo del Sultán y los de sus asociados en la administración de las islas montarán á la suma de $760 al mes.

"El Artículo X dispone que todo esclavo en el archipiélago de Jolo tendrá el derecho de comprar su libertad, pagando á su amo una cantidad que equivalga al precio usual del mercado. El convenio celebrado por el Brigadier BATES quedó sujeto á la ratificación del Presidente y á futuras modificaciones, con el consentimiento de las dos partes interesadas. He aprobado dicho convenio, sujeto á la sanción del Congreso y con la reserva, que he ordenado se comunique al Sultán de Jolo, de que no se debe entender en manera alguna que por este convenio los Estados Unidos autorizan la existencia de la esclavitud en el archipiélago de Sulú ó consienten en ella. Comunico estos hechos al Congreso para su información y para que dicte lo que estime conveniente.

"Todo indica que cuando la rebelión tagala haya sido sofocada, las condiciones de la vida en el archipiélago volverán á tomar pronto su curso ordinario, bajo la proteccion de nuestra soberanía, y que el pueblo de aquellas islas, tan favorecidas por la naturaleza, gozará de una prosperidad y libertad de que no ha gozado nunca. Ya se han abierto centenares de escuelas, á las que asisten numerosos niños. La libertad religiosa está plenamente garantizada. Funcionan los tribunales de justicia. Los negocios se hacen como de costumbre. Manila, cuyos habitantes huían á los campos hace pocos meses, es hoy una plaza comercial populosa y próspera. Los esfuerzos sinceros y constantes de la Comisión, del Almirante y del General de División que comanda el Departamento del Pacífico, para demostrar al pueblo que las intenciones de este Gobierno eran amistosas, han dado el benéfico resultado de convencer a la gran masa de los habitantes de que solamente aceptando la autoridad de los Estados Unidos, tendrán seguridad, paz, prosperidad y un gobierno estable.

"El Congreso de los Estados Unidos resolverá cuál ha de ser el futuro gobierno de las Filipinas. Pocas veces nos hemos visto con mayor responsabilidad. Si las aceptamos con un espíritu digno de nuestra raza y de nuestras tradiciones, se nos ofrecen grandes oportunidades. Las islas están bajo la proteccion de nuestra bandera. Son nuestras por todo título de equidad y justicia. No deben ser abandonadas. Si las dejáramos, las entregaríamos á la anarquía y finalmente a la barbarie. Las arrojaríamos como manzana de discordia entre potencias

rivales, ninguna de las cuales permitiría á otra que las ocupara sin oposición. Sus fértiles valles y planicies serían teatro de eternas y sangrientas luchas. La llegada de la flota de DEWEY á Manila, en vez de haber sido, como esperamos, la aurora de un nuevo día de libertad y progreso, habría sido el principio de una era de miseria y violencia, peor que cuantas se han visto en el obscuro pasado de aquella tierra desgraciada. Se ha sugerido la idea de que renunciemos al dominio de las islas y que, al hacerlas independientes, mantengamos sobre ellas un protectorado. Seguro estoy de que no encontraréis digno de vuestra atención semejante propuesta. Tal arreglo envolvería desde el principio una falta cruel de buena fe, puesto que dejaría á la mayoría leal y pacífica del pueblo, que nada desea tanto como aceptar nuestra autoridad, á merced de una minoría de insurrectos armados. Nos haría responsables de los actos de los caudillos rebeldes sin que tuviésemos el poder de impedirlos. Impondría sobre nosotros la obligación de proteger á los unos contra los otros y de defenderlos contra las naciones extranjeras con que ellos quisiesen provocar un conflicto. En fin, privaría al Congreso de los Estados Unidos de la facultad de declarar la guerra ó investiría con esta tremenda prerrogativa al caudillo tagalo que tuviera en sus manos el poder.

No creo oportuno recomendar ahora una forma de gobierno especial y definitiva para aquellas islas. Cuando se haya restablecido la paz, el Congreso se verá en el deber de establecer un sistema administrativo que garantice la libertad, el orden, y la paz en las Filipinas. La insurrección existe todavía, y cuando haya terminado, se necesitarán nuevos informes relativamente á las condiciones existentes, antes de establecer un gobierno civil permanente. El informe completo de la Comisión, que en la actualidad se está preparando, contendrá noticias é indicaciones valiosas para el Congreso, y os lo remetiré tan luego esté terminado. Mientras dure la insurrección el brazo militar debe necesariamente ejercer autoridad absoluta. Pero no hay razón para que no se trate de tiempo en tiempo, y á medida que el territorio es dominado por nuestras tropas, de establecer gobiernos esencialmente populares en su forma. Con este objeto en mira estoy pensando si no sería conveniente volver á mandar á la Comisión ó á algunos de sus miembros, á fin de que ayuden á las autoridades á llevar á cabo en todas las islas el trabajo indicado. Creo que la obra de reconstrucción no debe comenzar con el establecimiento de un gobierno civil central con asiento en Manila, sino que se ha de principiar por los cimientos, fundando gobiernos municipales y después provinciales, dejando para el fin el gobierno central.

En tanto que el Congreso no haya manifestado su voluntad respecto de aquellas islas, continuaré haciendo uso de las facultades que me confieren la Constitución y las leyes á fin de mantener la soberanía de los Estados Unidos en aquella lejana tierra, así como en todos los otros lugares donde legalmente flota nuestro pabellón. Pondré á la disposi-

ción del ejército y de la armada todos los medios que la generosidad del Congreso y del pueblo han facilitado para sofocar esta insurrección destructora é injustificable. Si hubiera sido necesario que expidiese órdenes al efecto de que las operaciones militares y navales se llevasen á cabo de una manera humanitaria, aquéllas no se habrían hecho esperar, pero á cada paso el avance de nuestras tropas ha sido caracterizado por una conducta tan noble, que ha sorprendido á los mismos insurrectos. Lo mejor que se puede hacer en favor de éstos es vencer pronto y por completo al caudillo que ahora los comanda.

No se economizará esfuerzo ninguno para reconstruir lo que la guerra y los largos años de desgobierno han destruido. No esperaremos que la lucha haya concluido para dar principio á esta obra redentora. Continuaremos, como hemos comenzado, abriendo escuelas é iglesias, haciendo funcionar los tribunales de justicia, fomentando la industria, la agricultura y el comercio, y haciendo que aquel pueblo á quien la Providencia puso bajo nuestra jurisdicción, comprenda que lo que deseamos no es dominarlo, sino hacerlo libre, que vamos en busca de su bienestar y no de ventajas para nosotros mismos. Siempre que nuestra bandera ha flotado sobre algún pueblo ha sido para su felicidad.

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PUERTO RICO.

Ya es tiempo de que se adopte alguna forma de gobierno temporal para Puerto Rico. Muchas de las indicaciones que se han hecho respecto de Alaska son aplicables también á aquella isla.

Según la opinión de abogados competentes que conocen el sistema de jurisprudencia civil existente en la isla, es aquél tan moderno como científico, en cuanto se relaciona á los negocios interiores, al tráfico, á la producción y á los derechos sociales é individuales en general. Poco ó ningún cambio se requiere en el gobierno de las ciudades. De suerte que probablemente poco ó nada se necesita disponer tocante á asuntos locales ó que afecten derechos particulares, pero tratándose de la administración pública y de las relaciones de la isla con el Gobierno Federal, hay muchas materias que exigen inmediata atención. La misma necesidad existe de que se dicten leyes referentes al establecimiento de la jurisdicción federal y de tribunales federales que os manifesté existía en el caso de Hawai.

Además de la administración de justicia, existe el asunto de terrenos baldíos; el del dominio y mejora de los ríos y bahías; el del dominio de las aguas no navegables, que, según las leyes españoles, pertenecían á la corona España, y que por el tratado han pasado al dominio de los Estados Unidos; el de la inmigración; el de la introducción de trabajadores bajo contrato; el de la manera de establecer y recaudar los impuestos interiores; el de la aplicación de las leyes de navegación; el de regularizar el sistema monetario; el del establecimiento de oficinas y rutas postales; el de los derechos que deben pagar las mercanías impor-

tadas en la isla de los Estados Unidos; el de habilitación de puertos; el de patentes y derechos de autor. Estos y otros asuntos que son del exclusivo dominio del Congreso requieren estudio cuidadoso y pronta resolución.

Conviene recordar que desde que Puerto Rico nos fué cedida no cuenta ya con los mercados principales de que dispuso por largo tiempo, y que nuestro Arancel de Aduanas grava sus productos como en la época en que era colonia española. Los mercados de España están cerrados para sus productos, excepto mediante condiciones á que se encuentra subjeto el comercio de todas las naciones. La isla de Cuba, que antes le compraba su ganado vacuno y su tabaco, ahora impone sobre estos productos los mismos derechos que pagan cuando llegan de otros países. De suerte que ha perdido sus libres relaciones comerciales con España y Cuba sin compensación alguna por lo que toca á nuestros mercados. Su café, que es uno de sus principales productos, era poco conocido por nuestro pueblo, que no lo usaba, y en consecuencia la demanda no existía. Los mercados de los Estados Unidos deben estar abiertos á sus productos. Nuestro deber es abolir toda clase de derechos de aduana entre los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico y hacer que los productos de la isla tengan acceso á nuestros mercados.

Como resultado del huracán que arrasó á Puerto Rico el 8 de agosto de este año, más de 100,000 personas se vieron reducidas á la más completa miseria, sin hogares y privadas de lo necesario para la vida. El Departamento de la Guerra hizo un llamamiento al pueblo de los Estados Unidos, que respondió á él de una manera pronta y generosa. Además de lo que hizo la caridad privada, el Departamento de la Guerra gastó para aliviar á los necesitados la suma de $392,342.63, sin incluir los gastos de transporte.

Es de desear que el gobierno militar que ahora existe en la isla sea sucedido por una administración enteramente civil. Por el momento recomiendo al Congreso que dicte una ley para la organización de un gobierno provisional, y la cual autorice al Presidente á nombrar, con la aprobación del Senado, un gobernador y los otros empleados que se necesiten para la administración general de la isla, al mismo tiempo que establezca un consejo legislativo que emita las disposiciones necesarias en lo tocante á asuntos locales que no se relacionen con los federales. Dicho consejo será compuesto en parte de portorriqueños y en parte de ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. Este consejo será también nombrado por el Presidente, sujeto el nombramiento á la ratificación del Senado. Las resoluciones de dicho consejo deben ser sometidas al Congreso ó al Presidente para su aprobación antes de que tengan fuerza de ley. Recomiendo que en las municipalidades y otras subdivisiones locales se introduzca desde luego el sistema de *self-government*, en orden á que los ciudadanos cultos de la isla tomen participación en la cosa pública y aprenden á conocer por experiencia cuales son los deberes y las necesidades de un pueblo autónomo.

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Lo que principalmente ha menester este pueblo, como todos los otros, es educación. La escuela libre es la que forma ciudadanos. Al introducir nuevos métodos de educación, sin embargo, hay que tener cuidado de no operar cambios demasiado bruscos, y al mismo tiempo se deben tomar en consideración las tradiciones y las ideas de los habitantes. Un sistema de educación racional que se adapte á las condiciones existentes y que tienda á levantar el estado moral de los habitantes y á fomentar su progreso industrial hará que estas nuevas posesiones aspiren á disfrutar de los beneficios que trae consigo la libertad política.

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CONCLUSIÓN.

Grandes oportunidades no menos que grandes responsabilidades tiene ante sí el Congreso. El poder que se nos ha confiado aumenta el peso de nuestras obligaciones hacia el pueblo, y debemos comprenderlo así al contemplar los nuevos y graves problemas que hemos de resolver. Si tenemos en mira solamente el bienestar nacional, no podemos errar. Si interpretamos como se debe la voluntad popular y nos guiamos por lo que el deber nos dicta, no podremos sino adoptar medidas sabias para la felicidad de las islas que han pasado al dominio de los Estados Unidos, medidas que redundarán en el interés común y en honra duradera para nuestra patria. Nunca como en el último año había tenido esta nación tantos motivos de gratitud hacia la Providencia por las numerosas mercedes y favores que le ha acordado, y ante los cuales nos inclinamos reverentes.

MUERTE DEL VICEPRESIDENTE HOBART.

El Honorable GARRET A. HOBART, Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, falleció en Paterson, New Jersey, el 21 de noviembre de este año, después de larga enfermedad. Mr. HOBART nació en Long Branch, New Jersey. El 3 de junio de 1863 recibió en el colegio de Rutgers el grado de bachiller en artes. En el mismo año fué profesor en una escuela, y más tarde estudió derecho, para lo cual tenía especiales disposiciones. Fué admitido al foro en 1866, y desde aquella época hasta el día en que fué electo Vicepresidente, ejerció su profesión con notable actividad. Siempre se le vió celoso en el desempeño de sus deberes de ciudadano. En 1871 fué llamado por primera vez á ocupar un puesto público, habiendo sido electo concejal por uno de los distritos de la ciudad de Paterson. En 1873 fué electo miembro de la Legislatura del estado de New Jersey. Fué Presidente de la Cámara de Diputados del mismo Estado en 1874, y senador en 1875. En 1886 fué candidato del partido republicano, entonces en minoría, para el puesto de Senador de los Estados Unidos. En junio de 1896 Mr. HOBART fué

designado por la Convención Nacional Republicana como candidato á la Vicepresidencia de los Estados Unidos, y su elección se efectuó en noviembre del mismo año.

Como Presidente del Senado se mostró hábil é imparcial y supo ganarse el respeto de todos los miembros de ese alto cuerpo, sin distinción de partidos políticos. Durante su permanencia en Wáshington Mr. HOBART se hizo querer de todo el mundo. El Presidente y sus Ministros solicitaban sus consejos, y en varias ocasiones su acendrado tacto prestó valiosos servicios.

No obstante haber dedicado una gran parte de tiempo á la politica y al ejercicio de su profesión, Mr. HOBART tomó importante participación en los negocios, y su habilidad en este terreno se puso de manifiesto cuando fué elegido como uno de los tres árbitros de lo que se llamó "The Joint Traffic Association" (La Asociación de Tráficos Reunidos), cargo que muy pocos hubieran podido desempeñar de una manera satisfactoria. Era miembro de la junta directiva de varios ferrocarriles y estaba interesado en muchas empresas comerciales en la ciudad de su residencia y en otros puntos del estado de New Jersey.

Los funerales de Mr. HOBART se verificaron el 25 de noviembre próximo pasado. Á ellos asistieron el Presidente MCKINLEY y los miembros de su Gabinete, los Magistrados del Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos, más de la mitad de los miembros del Senado, un gran número de diputados, el Gobernador y otros empleados del estado de New Jersey, el Gobernador del estado de Nueva York, y muchos otros hombres notables del país. La escena fué notable, pues se vieron allí reunidos, con el fin de dar un testimonio de respeto á la memoria del finado, hombres distinguidos en los negocios públicos, así como los que representan las clases profesionales y comerciales, pudiendo decirse que en aquella solemne ocasión figuraron, al lado de estadistas y diplomáticos, los obreros de las fábricas y los cultivadores de la tierra.

Según lo establecido por la ley, el Secretario de Estado ocupa ahora el primer lugar en el orden de sucesión á la Presidencia de la República. El Senador WILLIAM P. FRYE, del Estado de Maine, que había sido previamente electo Presidente provisional del Senado, va ahora á ser Presidente de ese alto cuerpo.

Tan luego se hubo anunciado la muerte de Mr. HOBART, el Presidente MCKINLEY expidió la siguiente proclama:

PROCLAMA AL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, falleció en su residencia de Paterson, New Jersey, á las ocho y media de la mañana del día de hoy. Con su muerte la nación pierde uno de sus hijos más ilustres y uno de sus más leales servidores. Tanto como hombre de negocios en el estado donde nació, como en su carácter de miembro de la Legislatura del mismo, dió muestra de su honradez á toda prueba, de su gran inteligencia y de su ilustración.

En su corta carrera de Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos y Presidente del Senado demostró que era un estadista hábil y probo. En el mundo de los negocios, pocos le igualaban entre sus contemporáneos. Como particular era noble y generoso. Por largo tiempo se le recordará como un hombre puro y agradable, cuyo carácter suave atraía todos los corazones, al mismo tiempo que la elevación de sus miras, su integridad y su abnegación en el servicio público le merecieron el respeto y la admiración de todos.

Como una muestra del pesar que esta gran pérdida ha causado al país, ordeno que en el día de sus funerales las oficinas del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos permanezcan cerradas, que en todos los puestos y estaciones del ejército y la armada se enarbole á media asta el pabelón nacional, y que los representantes de los Estados Unidos en países extranjeros ofrezcan adecuado tributo á la memoria del ilustre finado por un período de treinta días.

En fe de lo cual firmo la presente de mi puño y letra y la hago sellar con el sello de los Estados Unidos.

Dada en la ciudad de Wáshington, hoy 21 de noviembre del año de Nuestro Señor mil ochocientos noventa y nueve, y el ciento veinticuatro de la independencia de los Estados Unidos.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Refrendado:

JOHN HAY,

Secretario de Estado.

Á CADA CUAL LO QUE ES SUYO.

Es motivo de congratulación para el BOLETÍN MENSUAL el saber que cuenta con tantos amigos entre los órganos de la prensa de los Estados Unidos y de las jóvenes repúblicas situadas más allá del Río Grande. Dichos amigos, en su mayor parte respetables y serios diarios mercantiles, han ayudado y continúan ayudando al BOLETÍN en sus esfuerzos para diseminar en cada una de las naciones que forman la Unión Internacional, noticias relativas á las otras, y ha sido tal la diligencia con que han estado reproduciendo los artículos que aparecen en nuestra publicación sobre toda clase de asuntos y en diferentes lenguas, que sería dar muestra de excesiva susceptibilidad el mencionar el hecho de que casi nunca, por olvido ó quizá por un exagerado celo, no se ha hablado de la fuente de donde se han obtenido los informes. Cada mes el BOLETÍN contiene artículos sobre asuntos especiales que se relacionan á las repúblicas independientes del Nuevo Mundo, y con acendrado gusto y delicado tacto, en cuanto á favorecer sus intereses, muchos de los periódicos que se publican de un extremo al otro del continente reproducen dichos trabajos sin cambiarles una línea y sin manifestar siquiera, por medio de comillas, que son citas.

El BOLETÍN vuelve á recibir aquellos artículos sin alteración ninguna, en la forma de editoriales, de materias especiales, de noticias diversas y aun de informes consulares dirigidos á los gobiernos del Viejo Mundo; todo lo cual es muy satisfactorio para la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que está desempeñando con tanta eficacia su cometido. El BOLETÍN rinde las gracias á sus colegas por esta señalada muestra de confianza, y se toma la libertad de agregar que, como él no publica nada, con excepción de algunas notas misceláneas, sin mencionar la fuente de donde se derivan sus informes, sería de desear que sus colegas en los varios países que forman la Unión Internacional, de la cual él es órgano, manifestaran á sus lectores cómo es que obtienen sus noticias, con el doble objeto de cooperar en la grande obra para que fué fundada la Oficina y de dar á sus reproducciones un carácter oficial y fidedigno.

EL CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

El Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua, pronunció ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia un discurso que no pudo publicarse en el número del BOLETÍN correspondiente al mes de noviembre, por haberse recibido demasiado tarde una copia de él en esta Oficina. Dicho discurso, que se leerá á continuación, versó sobre el siguiente tema:

CENTRO AMÉRICA SERÁ UN MERCADO IMPORTANTÍSIMO PARA EL MUNDO CON EL CANAL INTEROCEÁNICO POR EL TERRITORIO NICARAGÜENSE.

Señor Presidente, Señoras, Caballeros: Hoy es el día señalado por este Congreso para la discusión del importante asunto "Canal Interoceánico."

La historia del proyecto por el territorio de Nicaragua es bien conocida: se ha escrito en volúmenes de importancia y reproducido en publicaciones diarias y de toda clase, y no seré yo quien venga á cansar á tan respetable auditorio repitiendo cómo desde 1550 se afirmó por GALVAO y se ha venido confirmando hasta hoy por ingenieros competentísimos, que la vía de Nicaragua es la única posible, la que presta más garantías y ofrece más ventajas á la navegación y al comercio. No entraré tampoco á estudiar el interés que la obra ha despertado á poderes europeos, como Francia y Holanda, y más que á éstos á los Estados Unidos de Norte América, por su peculiar posición en este continente; ni todos los trabajos empeñados y facilidades ofrecidas por Centro América primero y Nicaragua después, para atraer al capital extranjero y realizar empresa tan monumental y de tan indisputable utilidad para el mundo en su incesante desarrollo.

Todos más ó menos sabéis la multitud de liberales concesiones que Nicaragua como sección centro-americana y como república indepen-

diente ha otorgado desde 1826, y cómo todas las compañías concesionarias han venido fracasando por falta de capital suficiente para terminar el trabajo, hasta traer la convicción de que sólo un Gobierno, y un Gobierno interesado grandemente como el de los Estados Unidos, es el único capaz de llevarlo á cabo.

Como hablo ante un Congreso Comercial Internacional, me referiré únicamente á una de las consecuencias inmediatas de la construcción de dicha vía marítima por territorio nicaragüense—la transformación de Centro América en un mercado importantísimo.

Una de las razones que se alega constantemente en favor del canal por Nicaragua—en tratándose de los Estados Unidos, por ejemplo—es el acortamiento de la distancia á los mercados del Oriente y Europa. En ninguna de las publicaciones hechas sobre el particular he visto que se haya tomado en cuenta el mercado de Centro América, considerándose muy á la ligera los de la América del Sur. Se han empeñado los interesados en el asunto en averiguar cuanto menores serán los distancias de Nueva York y Nueva Orleans á San Francisco, á Yokohama, Melbourne, Hongkong, Singapore, etc., y cuanto de California y demás Estados del Oeste á los países de Europa. Se trata de los mercados del Oriente que consumen gran parte de lo que produce la industria del mundo y se busca cómo atraerse aquéllos que á tan lejana distancia podrán llegar á ser más tarde buenos consumidores. Mas se omiten casi siempre hasta los países de la América del Sur que ya hoy figuran en primera línea, y se descuida por completo el tomar en cuenta lo que será Centro América.

Ni podría alegarse para esto la diferencia de idioma á que muchos atribuyen el que siendo el Canadá y México colindantes de los Estados Unidos, el primero importe el 59 por ciento de lo que consume, mientras el otro sólo el 49 por ciento; pues Europa y los Estados Unidos buscan ávidos adonde mandar más tarde los productos de su industria en lugares lejanos y en donde lo que menos se habla son los idiomas europeos. Yo encuentro que si se analiza un poco la posición topográfica y condiciones excepcionales de Centro América en general y Nicaragua en particular, se llegará necesariamente á la conclusión de que aquella parte del mundo vendrá á ser uno de los centros comerciales más importantes.

El canal principiará por el Este cortando la región de Nicaragua más rica en minas de oro, plata y otros metales y piedras preciosas, como el ópalo. Al Norte del extremo oriental de esa vía marítima hay actualmente americanos é ingleses que poseen minas de oro de valor inapreciable. Varias compañías se han formado para su explotación y ya han empezado á recoger ópimos frutos á pesar de las dificultades que encuentran para proveerse de maquinaria.

Si continuamos sobre la línea del canal, que sigue el Río San Juan hasta llegar al gran Lago de Nicaragua, encontraremos bosques cerrados de maderas preciosas y de construcción que la mano del hombre

no ha osado tocar aun. Árboles gigantescos y vegetación de toda especie en las extensas llanuras que los rodean revelan también la feracidad de aquellos terrenos que aun pueden llamarse vírgenes.

Llegando al lago hallamos que esa inmensa masa de agua es riquísima en peces de todas clases, y que, teniendo profundidad más que suficiente para que pasen los buques de mayor calado en el mundo conocidos, posee puertos naturales en la mayor parte de sus costas, en donde podrían anclar los buques mercantes para depositar y coger carga de los departamentos del interior. En todos esos departamentos que rodean el lago y principalmente los del Norte y del Este, se encuentran terrenos propios para la siembras de café, cacao, vainilla, caña de azúcar, toda clase de cereales y variedad inmensa de frutas propias de los trópicos. Así también los hay espléndidos para la crianza de ganado; y las grandes haciendas formadas allí de cientos de miles de animales, lo demuestra.

Gran parte de esos terrenos son nacionales, y el Gobierno, para atraer la inmigración de hombres de trabajo, ha dictado leyes que hacen fácil el obtenerlos á aquéllos que demuestran deseos de radicarse en el país para seguir una vida de labor honrada.

Al otro lado del lago y en la parte que habrá de canalizarse para que éste se una con el Pacífico, hay también vastos terrenos fértiles y de fácil acceso.

Nicaragua cuenta hoy apenas 650,000 habitantes en una extensión de territorio de 45,000 á 46,000 millas cuadradas, que puede contener fácilmente tantos millones de individuos como los estados de Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut y Delaware juntos, y que indudablemente contendrá tan pronto como se facilite, por la baratura del pasaje, su transporte al inmigrante.

Y si Nicaragua sola tendría bastantes recursos para alimentar tantos millones, Honduras y Guatemala por el Norte, que cada una tiene poco más ó menos la misma área y los mismos elementos de vitalidad, y el Salvador y Costa Rica, que aunque menores en extensión son ricos también y con pueblos activos y laboriosos, aprovecharían toda ventaja que esa nueva vía marítima les trajera, principalmente Costa Rica, que en varias millas de longitud colindará con ella.

Los ferrocarriles, que ya se cuentan por un considerable número de millas en las diferentes secciones preapuntadas, las unirán en el acto en que se vea la facilidad de poder embarcar sus productos en cualquiera de los puertos de aquel gran lago, para ser conducidos rápidamente hasta á los países más lejanos.

Y las comunicaciones por correos, telégrafos y teléfonos, que hoy son muy buenas, se mejorarán cuando se dediquen al servicio más constante y productivo de un comercio mayor.

Los Estados Unidos en Norte América y ya Chile y la Argentina en el Sur, al estilo de los países industriales de Europa, como Inglaterra, Alemania, Francia, etc., no sólo procuran retener aquellos mercados en

que se han sabido insinuar, sino que se empeñan por hacerse de simpatías ante aquellos que podrán serlo mañana. Hoy los europeos tienen demasiado que exportar; pero la industria aumenta en todas partes y dentro de pocos años ya no podrán mandar á los Estados Unidos, por ejemplo, muchos de los artículos que éstos hoy importan, pero que mañana ellos mismos fabricarán; y este país, que ahora tiene un consumo tan grande dentro de él mismo—que casi no necesita exportar—al paso que va, llegará el momento del sobrante enorme y habrá necesidad de mercados que lo consuman. Aquél que esté más próximo será el mejor.

Centro América, preparada como está, con el grado de cultura que ha alcanzado y los elementos con que cuenta, al sólo iniciarse el trabajo del Canal por Nicaragua, recibirá de todo el mundo una inmigración incalculablable, que vendá á ser un poderoso elemento do consumo, haciendo de aquella sección uno de los mercados más apetecidos del mundo; mercado adonde se podrá mandar los productos de la industria más adelantada de los Estados Unidos y Europa y de donde se recibirá en cambio grandes cantidades de oro, plata y demás metales preciosos; de maderas de superior calidad, de que el mundo no se beneficia hoy por el difícil y caro transporte; de todos los productos de su riquísimo suelo, y hasta de los de la industria indígena, tan curiosa y tan apreciada en el extranjero, y que además de revelar el adelanto de aquellos aborígenes, ofrece artefactos de suma utilidad que no podrían fabricarse con la misma baratura en ninguna otra parte.

El Canal de Nicaragua, pues, Señores, fuera de evitar al mundo el gasto de muchos millones de dollars y de ser él, en sí mismo, un gran negocio, hará también que no sólo se aproximen los centros de comercio hasta hoy conocidos como buenos, sino que ensanchará inmensamente el mercado de Centro América, que, con elementos nuevos y con grandes riquezas acumuladas, contribuirá á que venga otra edad de oro, de sorprendentes empresas y maravilloso desenvolvimiento comercial.

MARCAS DE FÁBRICA EXTRANJERAS.

En la reunión del Congreso Comercial Internacional que tuvo lugar en Filadelfia recientemente, el Comisionado del Ramo de Patentes en los Estado Unidos, Hon. CHARLES H. DUELL, avanzó algunas ideas dignas de consideración sobre las marcas de fábrica en el extranjero. Hizo notar que, cuando se ha establecido el comercio extranjero basado en la calidad de un producto, sólo puede conservarse aquél siempre que los efectos que se sigan mandando sean de calidad igual al primero que se exportó; y de aquí que, con el objeto de impedir que otros introduzcan mercancías de inferior calidad ó imitaciones, es de importancia esencial que los exportadores adopten el empleo de marcas de fábrica.

Por lo que hace á la selección de marcas de fábrica, dijo el Comisionado que se debía tener el mayor cuidado al hacerla, adjustándose á la ley, de suerte que se pueda mantener contra todos el derecho adquirido; aconsejó á los exportadores que al adoptar una marca cuidaran de no usar nombres de personas, porque como todo hombre tiene el derecho de usar su nombre propio, resulta que si hay veinte personas, por ejemplo, que lleven igual nombre y apellido, á cada una de ellas le asiste el perfecto derecho de usarlo. Recomendó también á los exportadores que no emplearan términos de geografía, ni palabras descriptivas ó nombres para expresar calidad ó excelencia peculiar á algo, pues ninguna de las marcas de fábrica mencionadas pueden defenderse como invistiendo de un derecho exclusivo é incontestable á ninguno.

El Comisionado aconsejó, también, á todos los fabricantes que adoptasen marcas de fábrica no tan sólo para su comercio interior sino también para el extranjero, explicando que era fácil escoger una divisa ó un símbolo, ó idear una palabra. Muchas de las pretendidas marcas de fábrica que se han presentado para ser registradas en la Oficina de Patentes de los Estados Unidos han sido recusadas por no estar ajustadas á la ley. El Comisionado añadió que á causa de las invenciones economizadoras del trabajo empleadas por los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos, el país podía producir artículos tan baratos como es posible fabricarlos en muchos otros países donde los salarios son más bajos. Si en estas condiciones los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos exportan productos que satisfagan los gustos y las necesidades de otros países, se ensanchará inmensamente el comercio de exportación en artículos manufacturados, y una vez establecido éste y conocidas las marcas de fábrica legales de los Estados Unidos que indican su propietario, no hay por qué el comercio que se ha ganado así no pueda conservarse por tiempo indefinido.

LA PRODUCCIÓN DE CARBÓN EN EL MUNDO.

Con el título de "Another look at the coal question" (Otra mirada á la cuestión de carbón), el periódico de Londres "The Iron and Coal Trades Review," correspondiente al 3 de noviembre de este año, contiene un artículo sobre la producción de carbón en el mundo. En él se lee lo siguiente: "hace algún tiempo ciertos escritores llamaron la atención al hecho de que estamos amenazados de una escasez de carbón en algunos de nuestros principales distritos productores de dicho artículo, especialmente en aquéllos que parecían incapaces de mayor desarrollo. Esa escasez casi existe ya. Hemos oído hablar de contratos, propuestos sobre bases excelentes, que no ha sido posible llevar á efecto, debido á que los traficantes en carbón no podían comprometerse á entregarlo dentro de un término razonable.

"Prácticamente, todas las casas que comercian en carbón tienen pedi-

dos por llenar, que las mantendrán ocupadas durante mucho tiempo, y se les exige que entreguen pronto y con regularidad el artículo. Se extraen de todas las minas cuanto son capaces de producir. El carbón para fábricas y para cocinar se ha vuelto realmente escaso. Esto no solamente acontece en nuestro propio país. En todo el mundo parece haber gran necesidad de combustible y un consumo sin precedente. En Alemania, Francia y Bélgica los productores hacen esfuerzos supremos por mantener la oferta á la altura de la demanda. Por todas partes se hacen pedidos de carbón. La escasez del artículo en los mencionados países hace que haya aumentado la cantidad que del nuestro importan, y por esto es que nuestra exportación de carbón durante los últimos diez meses ha sido la más grande de que hay recuerdo.

"El aumento que se ha verificado en la producción de carbón en el mundo durante los últimos años es sorprendente y fenomenal. Esto se refiere tanto á los países de Europa como á los Estados Unidos, el Canadá, Australia y la colonia del Cabo. Los Estados Unidos casi nos igualan como país productor de carbón, y probablemente nos habrían dejado atrás desde hace muchos años, á no haber sido porque en los Estados de Ohio, Pennsylvania é Indiana el carbón fué sustituido en gran escala por combustibles líquidos y gaseosos. Con todo, los Estados Unidos se pondrán á la altura de nosotros antes de largo tiempo, pues su producción de carbón es ya casi igual á la nuestra. Alemania hace mayores esfuerzos que antes para aumentar su producción de carbón bituminoso, que este año será por primera vez de más de 100,000,000 de toneladas. Rusia muestra más actividad y energía que nunca, y otro tanto hacen los otros países productores de carbón en el mundo entero, incluyendo la China y el Japón."

Anexa á este artículo aparece una tabla en que se muestra lo que fué la producción total de carbón en 1890 y en 1898, y lo que probablemente será en 1899 en todos los países del mundo que producen dicho artículo. Según se ve por dicha tabla, la producción que en 1890 fué de 454,000,000 toneladas, ascendió en 1898 á 570,000,000 toneladas, y es posible que ascienda en 1899 á 610,000,000 toneladas ó algo más.

La producción de los difentes países del mundo es como sigue:

Países.	1890.	1898.	1899.
	Toneladas.	*Toneladas.*	*Toneladas.*
Gran Bretaña	181, 611, 000	202, 024, 000	220, 000, 000
Estados Unidos	140. 883, 000	196, 000, 000	208, 000, 000
Alemania	70, 238, 000	99, 280, 000	110, 000, 000
Francia	25, 591, 000	27, 000, 000	30, 000, 000
Bélgica	20, 366, 000	20, 075, 000	22, 000, 000
Rusia	5, 998, 000	10, 000, 000	12, 000, 000
Austria-Hungría	9, 926, 000	11, 200, 000	12, 500, 000

La producción de otros países se calcula en 13,104,000 durante el año de 1890, en 4,700,000 toneladas (datos incompletos) en 1898, y en 18,000,000 (datos incompletos) en 1899.

PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR EN EUROPA.

Mr. W. P. ATWELL, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Roubaix, Francia, dirigió al Departamento de Estado, con fecha 17 de octubre de 1899, un informe sobre la producción de azúcar en Europa durante los últimos dos años. Según los datos estadísticos suministrados al Cónsul por Mr. GIESECHER, autoridad reconocida en la materia, la extensión de terreno cultivado en cada país y la cantidad de azúcar producida fueron como sigue:

Países.	Extensión cultivada.		Azúcar sin purgar producida.	
			1899–1900.	1898–9.
	Hectáreas.	*Acres.*[1]	*Toneladas.*	*Toneladas.*
Francia	255,542	631,000	910,000	830,000
Bélgica	58,136	143,000	230,000	209,000
Holanda	46,900	115,000	170,000	150,000
Alemania	428,142	1,057,000	1,830,000	1,722,000
Austria	322,200	795,000	1,015,000	1,039,000
Rusia	482,295	1,191,000	880,000	795,000
Suecia	26,418	65,000	100,000	60,000
Dinamarca	14,000	29,000	55,000	35,000
Otros países	17,000	42,000	60,000	45,000
Toda Europa	1,650,633	4,068,000	5,250,000	4,885,000
1889–1899	1,558,918	3,850,527	.....	.....

[1] En números redondos.

Estos guarismos muestran que ha habido un aumento de 5.88 por ciento en la extensión cultivada este año, comparada con la del año pasado. El aumento en la producción de remolacha para la industria de azúcar ascenderá probablemente á 18.18 por ciento. Aunque el aumento en la producción de azúcar puede calcularse en 7.5 por ciento, la producción media para fines industriales puede considerarse que será solamente de 12.5 por ciento, contra 13.75 por ciento durante el año pasado.

Las condiciones climatológicas pueden alterar los cálculos que preceden, tanto en lo relativo á la cosecha, como en cuanto á la producción industrial, y, por lo mismo, los anteriores guarismos deben mirarse como provisionales.

Mr. CZARNIKOW, en su circular sobre la producción de remolacha y sobre la industria azucarera, se expresa así:

"Aunque es demasiado temprano para hacer un cálculo de la producción, la opinión general es que habrá un sobrante de cosa de 500,000 toneladas, si el tiempo sigue siendo favorable.

"El aspecto general del mercado, á pesar de ligeras fluctuaciones, indica confianza, y los precios actuales se consideran normales, aun para una buena cosecha."

El informe oficial del 13 de octubre contiene la siguiente tabla relativa á esta región:

Descripción.	1899–1900.	1898–99.
Fábricas funcionando.....número..	200	84
Remolachas beneficiadas.....toneladas..	257,152	76,711
Producción.....id....	24,205	7,168
Admisión temporal.....id....	9,773	1,821
Exportación.....id....	4,428	3,793
Cantidad existente á fines de setiembre.....id....	175,618	85,516
Diminución respecto al mes de agosto.....id....	32,657	44,754

EL FERROCARRIL PAN-AMERICANO.

En el número de diciembre de la publicación mensual llamada "Cosmopolitan," aparece un artículo de Mr. WALTER C. HAMM, con el título de "Grandes Proyectos de Ingeniería," en el cual hace una interesante revista de los triunfos alcanzados por aquella ciencia durante el siglo XIX. Las dos mayores conquistas, según el autor en referencia, son la construcción del ferrocarril del Pacífico y la perforación del Canal de Suez. Entre los grandes proyectos que pueden llevarse á cabo cuenta el Ferrocarril Internacional Americano, al cual se refiere en estos términos: "El Ferrocarril Pan-Americano que habrá de unir á las Américas del Norte, del Centro y del Sur es una empresa más grande que la de la construcción del ferrocarril de Siberia ó el del Africa. Su extensión es casi igual á la de ambos reunidos." Según los estudios hechos ya, de la ciudad de Nueva York á la de Buenos Aires, cubrirá una distancia de 10,221 millas, costando cuando esté terminado y equipado $200,000, por lo menos. Tanto la extensión cuanto el costo aumenta rán tan luego como se extienda la línea por Patagonia hasta el extremo meridional de Sud América.

El estudio hecho por la Comisión nombrada por el Congreso demuestra que se puede encontrar una ruta practicable y que se puede construir el ferrocarril en un corto espacio de tiempo. En el mapa se puede trazar la línea que ha de seguir el ferrocarril, cuyas distancias aparecen en el siguiente cuadro, al propio tiempo que el número de millas ya construidas y las que aun no lo están.

	Construidas.	Por construir.	Total.
Estados Unidos	2,094	.....	2,094
México	1,183	461	1,644
Total, América del Norte	3,277	461	3,738
Guatemala	43	126	169
Salvador	64	166	230
Honduras	.....	71	71
Nicaragua	103	106	209
Costa Rica	.....	360	360
Total, Centro América	210	829	1,039
Colombia	.....	1,354	1,354
Ecuador	.....	658	658
Perú	151	1,633	1,784
Bolivia	195	392	587
Argentina	936	125	1,061
Total, Sud América	1,282	4,769	5,444
Totales generales	4,769	5,452	10,221

Las necesidades del comercio pueden obligar á que se haga pronto la construcción del ferrocarril. Es dudoso que entre la América del Norte y del Sur se pueda establecer un comercio lucrativo por mar. La conformación de la Costa oriental de Sud América obliga á hacer un gran viaje hacia el este, de modo que los buques quedan tan cerca de los puertos de Europa como de los Estados Unidos. Como las exportaciones de Sud América son en su mayor parte productos agrícolas, en Europa hallarán buenos mercados, y una vez hecho el cambio por los productos baratos manufacturados en el Continente, el comercio queda establecido. Si, por estas razones, este país no puede establecer y fomentar un comercio por mar con Sud América, los medios rápidos de comunicación que se necesitan los proveerá el ferrocarril Pan-Americano.

Grandes son los obstáculos que hay que vencer; superiores á las dificultades del ferrocarril de la Siberia ó el del "Cabo al Cairo." Los resultados, empero, serán tan grandes como la empresa. Las riquezas que yacen inexplotadas en Sud América son mayores que las de cualquier otro continente. Sus posibilidades agrícolas son ilimitadas; tiene los ríos más grandes del mundo; su suelo puede producir cualquier fruto de la tierra y sus minas de oro, plata y carbón apenas han sido tocadas.

Un ferrocarril que atraviese los terrenos cafetaleros de los países de Centro America, pase por los ricos yacimientos metalíferos del Perú y penetre á las ricas pampas del Brasil y la Argentina debe tener un inmenso porvenir. Los productos de los tres grandes valles del Orinoco, el Amazonas y el Paraguay hallarían mercados por medio de este ferrocarril, y las minas de los Incas probarían ser más ricas que las de California y las del Sur de África.

MADERA INCOMBUSTIBLE.

Por medio de un procedimiento nuevo, se ha logrado producir madera á prueba de fuego, lo cual se considera, con mucha razón, un descubrimiento notable, pues no es dudoso que en lo futuro, si no logra hacer imposibles los incendios, hará mucho menores sus estragos. Á este respecto se ha citado la destrucción por el fuego del Hotel Windsor, en Nueva York, acontecimiento aciago que ocasionó la muerto de numerosas personas.

En la fabricación de madera incombustible, tal como se efectúa ahora en los talleres que tiene en la ciudad de Newark, Estado de New Jersey, la American Wood Fireproofing Company, el método que se emplea consiste en introducir la madera dentro de un receptáculo de acero de forma cilíndrica y capaz de resistir una presión de 400 libras por pulgada cuadrada. Lo primero que se hace es someter la madera á un baño de vapor. La duración de este baño depende de la calidad y del

espesor de la madera, y así puede ser de una hora como de cincuenta. Terminado este procedimiento, se hace el vacío en el receptáculo por medio de una bomba. Esta operación extrae de la madera todo la savia, jugos, etc. Á continuación se introduce en el receptáculo un líquido alcalino, teniendo cuidado de evitar la entrada del aire. La madera absorbe este líquido hasta quedar casi completamente saturada. Á fin de facilitar la absorción, se hace uso de una presión considerable. La parte del líquido que no ha sido absorbida se extrae por medio de una bomba. Después de esto se saca la madera del receptáculo á fin de secarla, ya al aire libre, ya en hornos construidos con este fin.

Este último procedimiento hace que, una vez evaporada el agua, quede la madera completamente curada, sin que su apariencia haya sido alterada en manera alguna, y contiene las mismas propiedades que antes, aunque ya exenta de los jugos capaces de producir fermentación. El procedimiento es hasta cierto punto antiséptico, y al dar mayor solídez á la madera, hace que, cuando se la pinta, se consuma menor cantidad de aceite que en la madera que no ha pasado por el mencionado procedimiento. La madera incombustible puede pulirse mejor que la que no lo es, aun tratándose de las suaves, como el pino blanco y el álamo. No es posible encender la madera incombustible, como se ha demostrado con diversos experimentos, ni aun sometiéndola á la llama de un soplete. Puede ser carbonizada hasta cierto grado, pero es incapaz de producir conflagración.

Es evidente que la madera incombustible está destinada á representar papel muy importante en la construcción de buques, tanto de guerra como mercantes, y es probable que su uso se hará extensivo á todo género de edificios.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 859 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de octubre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los diez meses que terminaron en octubre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de octubre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en diciembre.

INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN NOVIEMBRE.

Por el informe de la Tesorería, publicado el 1° de diciembre, se ve que los ingresos durante el mes de noviembre ascendieron á $46,945,572, y que los egresos montaron á $40,769,847, ó sea un excedente en favor de los ingresos de más de $6,000,000. En el mes de noviembre de 1898 los ingresos totales fueron solamente de $38,900,915. Esto da una idea de la creciente riqueza del país. Los egresos en noviembre de 1898 ascendieron á $49,090,980, pero en dicho mes los gastos ocasionados por la guerra montaron á $20,391,876, mientras que en noviembre de 1899 fueron solamente de $11,455,102. Esto es, sin embargo, muchos millones más de lo que eran los egresos normales antes de la guerra con España.

Los ingresos durante el mes provinieron de las fuentes siguientes: Aduanas, $19,204,417; renta interior, $23,693,254; fuentes diversas, $4,047,900. En números redondos, el aumento sobre el mismo mes en 1898 fué de $4,000,000, de cuya cantidad cerca de la mitad se debe á la renta interior.

Los ingresos durante los primeros cinco meses del presente año económico han montado á la suma de $238,034,390, y los egresos han sido por valor de $224,621,000, lo cual muestra un excedente en favor de los primeros de $13,413,390.

INFORME DEL COMISIONADO DE LA NAVEGACIÓN.

El informe anual de EUGENE T. CHAMBERLAIN, Comisionado de la Navegación de los Estados Unidos, demuestra que la industria de cuyo ramo está encargado participó de la prosperidad general del año pasado. El tonelaje total registrado en 30 de junio de 1899 se componía de 22,728 buques, con 4,864,238 toneladas brutas, que es el mayor tonelaje de que se tiene noticia desde 1865. El número de buques empleados en el comercio costanero alcanzó á 21,397 buques, con 4,015,992 toneladas brutas, ó sea el mayor de que hay constancia en la historia de la república al mismo tiempo que es también más grande que el tonelaje del tráfico costanero de cualquier otro país. Por la primera vez el tonelaje de vapor excede al de cualquier otra clase de buques, y alcanza á 2,476,011 toneladas. El tonelaje registrado de las embarcaciones que hacen el tráfico con el extranjero continúa muy pequeño. Durante el último año fiscal correspondió á los buques de los Estados Unidos algo menos de 9 por ciento del tráfico de importación y exportación, lo que representa la proporción más pequeña de que se tiene noticia en la historia del país.

Según los datos recojidos por el "Bureau Veritas," el tonelaje de los veleros de mar en todo el mundo ha disminuido en veinticinco años de 14,185,836 á 8,693,769 toneladas, ó sea una diferencia de 40 por ciento, que ha sido el promedio de la diminución en los Estados Unidos. Durante el mismo período, el tonelaje de la marina de alto bordo en general ha

aumentado de 4,328,193 toneladas á 18,887,132, ó sea 336 por ciento. La marina noruega ha aumentado en más de 1,400 por ciento y la alemana en cerca de 700 por ciento, mientras que la de los Estados Unidos aumentó en 68 por ciento. El aumento del tonelaje registrado en este país para el comercio extranjero en las costas del Atlántico y del Golfo ha sido solamente 38 por ciento. El desarrollo de Alaska durante los últimos años ha producido un aumento rápido en el tonelaje de la costa del Pacífico.

Durante los últimos veinte años los Estados Unidos, por lo que se refiere al tonelaje de naves de mar, han bajado del segundo al cuarto lugar, y si sólo se toman en cuenta los vapores que hacen el comercio de exportación, la posición que ocupan hoy corresponde al sexto lugar. El informe en referencia hace una ligera reseña de la legislación de otros países á favor de la marina mercante, demostrando que durante el último año fiscal los naciones de Europa y el Japón gastaron más de $26,000,000 en fomentarla de varios modos, mientras que los Estados Unidos sólo gastaron $998,211 para el mismo objeto.

Hace notar el Comisionado que las mismas razones que guían á otras naciones á desarrollar su marina mercante se aplican igualmente á los Estados Unidos, y que entre otras son: primero, la relación entre la marina de guerra y la mercante como elemento de defensa nacional; segundo, las relaciones de la marina mercante y las posesiones insulares; tercero, las relaciones de esta marina con los nuevos mercados del Asia, África, Australia y Sud América; cuarto, la necesidad de tener el mejor servicio de correos marítimo bajo el pabellón del país; quinto, la relación de la marina mercante con las importaciones y exportaciones y el valor del transporte, y por último, el fomento de la industria de construcciones navales y otras anexas.

El valor anual del tráfico marítimo de los Estados Unidos se calcula en $175,000,000, inclusive boletas de pasajero é inmigrantes, y subvención por el transporte del correo. El argumento de que los derechos arancelarios sirven de obstáculo al desarrollo de la marina mercante americana en el comercio extranjero queda desvirtuado al considerar las disposiciones dictadas en 1872, según las cuales, y durante los últimos cinco años, todos los materiales empleados en los Estados Unidos para la construcción de buques para el comercio extranjero, así como todos los accesorios para ese objeto, han gozado de exención de todo derecho arancelario, y los únicos impuestos federales que pesan sobre la industria de construcción naval en los Estados Unidos son los derechos de tonelaje que afectan por igual manera á los buques extranjeros y del país.

Se hace notar la impracticabilidad del gravamen con derechos de represalias á los cargamentos que vienen en buques extranjeros, ó sobre el tonelaje de dichos buques, por razón de las cláusules contenidas en los tratados que los Estados Unidos tienen celebrados con casi todas las naciones del mundo. La misma objeción se aplica á la pro-

posición de conceder primas á las exportaciones verificadas en buques propiedad de ciudadanos americanos.

En vista de que la proposición de conceder registro americano á buques construidos en el extranjero que hacen el comercio exterior fué únanimemente rechazada hace cuatro años por la Comisión de Comercio del Senado de los Estados Unidos, así como también por la oposición que los dueños y constructores de buques del país hacen á dicha medida, no se considera practicable.

El informe del Comisionado se ocupa en su mayor parte del estudio del "Bill del Senado, número 5590," propuesto por el Senador FRYE durante las últimas sesiones del Congreso, en sustitución de los acuerdos presentados por el Senador HANNA y el Diputado PAYNE.

Hácese notar que el máximum de las erogaciones en cualquier año queda fijado por aquel bill en $9,000,000, de los cuales hay que deducir $1,500,000, que es el costo al presente de la conducción por mar del correo de los Estados Unidos en buques de propiedad americana, suma que continuará gastándose sea cual fuere la suerte que corra el bill, lo que reduce á $7,500,000 el gasto máximo anual. Suponiendo que todos los buques de los Estados Unidos registrados para el comercio extranjero estuviesen completamente ocupados durante todo el año, hoy los nuevos gastos, según el bill, alcanzarían á $3,000,000. Antes de que se llegue el máximum debe aumentarse la capacidad productora de los astilleros del país, y multiplicarse el tonelaje protegido por el pabellón americano y que hace el comercio extranjero.

Durante la década que terminó en 1898, los astilleros del país produjeron solamente 213,000 toneladas brutas de vapores de alto bordo, mientras que los de Alemania produjeron 850,000 toneladas y los ingleses 9,680,000 toneladas brutas. La diferencia en el costo de la construcción y explotación de los buques americanos é ingleses es materia que ocupa buena parte del informe, que también hace notar que de los 362 buques de vapor que hoy hay, cuyo andar es de 14 ó más nudos, más del 80 por ciento reciben ya de una manera ya de otra ayuda de los Gobiernos respectivos, que se calcula en más de $20,000,000.

El Comisionado recomiende un aumento moderado en los impuestos de tonelaje vigentes en los Estados Unidos, igualándolos á los que rigen en los principales puertos de Europa, y considera favorable la adopción de medidas que dispongan la aplicación de las leyes de los Estados Unidos sobre comercio, navegación y marina mercante al Hawaii y Puerto Rico, de suerte de extender hasta ellas las disposiciones de cabotaje de los Estados Unidos. Se recomienda que los buques de propiedad de Cubanos se coloquen, por medio de una ley, á la par de aquéllos pertenecientes á la nación más favorecida. Por virtud de una ley existente ha sido necesario imponer un derecho de tonelaje de $1 por tonelada bruta á aquellas embarcaciones, que es prácticamente un impuesto prohibitivo, y esto sólo se puede remediar por medio de leyes.

IMPUESTOS INTERNOS.

En el informe presentado al Secretario de Hacienda por el Hon. GEORGE W. WILSON, Comisionado del ramo de Impuestos Internos, referente á la marcha de la oficina de su cargo durante el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, aparece que los ingresos provenientes de todos los ramos que lo componen alcanzaron en aquel período de tiempo á $273,484,573, ó sea un aumento de $102,617,000 sobre el año anterior y de $3,484,573 sobre el presupuesto del Comisionado en diciembre de 1898. Los ingresos producidos por los diferentes ramos fueron durante el año pasado como sigue:

Alcoholes, $99,283,534; aumento, $6,736,534; tabaco, $52,493,207; aumento, $16,262,685; licores fermentados, $68,644,558; aumento, $29,129,137; oleomargarina, $1,956,618; aumento, $640,838; queso (imitación), $18,098; aumento, $1,799; harina mezclada, $7,840. La ley no estaba en vigor el año pasado.

Impuestos especiales no enumerados, $4,921,593; la ley sólo estuvo en vigor poco tiempo. Herencias y particiones de bienes personales, $1,235,435; derecho del timbre, según la cláusula A de la ley sobre impuestos de guerra, $38,618,081; medicinas y artículos patentados, etc., gravados por la cláusula B de dicha ley, $5,210,737.

Entre los ingresos arriba mencionados se cuentan los siguientes: Impuestos sobre el capital en los bancos, $3,750,834; billares, $367,074; corredores de bolsa, etc., $357,010; corredores de comercio, $181,919; corredores de aduana, $50,522; juegos de bolos, $61,349; circos, $18,233; otros espectáculos, $126,540; varios, $1,085,968.

Los artículos retirados para el consumo durante el año fueron los siguientes:

Alcoholes destilados de frutas, 1,306,218 galones; alcoholes destilados de granos, 83,819,314 galones; licores fermentados, 36,581,114 barriles; cigarros de todas clases y pesos, 1,077,387,824; cigarrillos de todas clases y pesos, 2,805,130,737; rapé, 14,627,066 libras; tabaco de mascar y para fumar, 237,132,410 libras; oleomargarina, 80,495, 628 libras; queso (imitación), 1,688,641 libras.

Los gastos ocasionados por la recaudación de las rentas durante el año alcanzaron á $4,591,754, ó sea 1.68 por ciento del total recaudado, cantidad que es la menor de que se tenga noticia en la historia de la Oficina de Rentas Internas. Durante el año económico anterior el costo de la recaudación alcanzó á 2.29 por ciento del total recaudado. El presupuesto de gastos por este concepto para el año económico venidero se ha calculado en $4,877,340 más.

El Comisionado calcula que para el año fiscal que termina el 30 de junio de 1900 los ingresos por todos conceptos se estiman al rededor de $285,000,000, ó sea más de $11,500,000 en exceso del producto de 1899. Este cálculo está basado en los ingresos percibidos en los cuatro meses ya conocidos.

Durante el año los empleados de las rentas embargaron 2,190

alambiques clandestinos, y en el cumplimiento de sus deberes uno fué muerto y tres heridos. Se aprehendieron 711 personas relacionadas con la explotación clandestina de alambiques.

Entre las recomendaciones hechas por el Comisionado se cuentan las siguientes: que los bienes raíces ubicados en los Estados Unidos pertenecientes á personas que residen en el extranjero y que allí fallezcan deben gravarse de la misma manera que los bienes raíces de los que residen en el país; que se conceda un descuento de 2 por ciento á los compradores de sellos ó timbres de la renta interna (proprietary stamps) siempre que los compren en cantidades que no bajen de $100; que las ferias ó exposiciones agrícolas queden exentas del pago de impuestos internos; que las "ganancias indivisas" se consideran como excedente al calcular los impuestos que afectan los bancos; que se derogue el impuesto que pesa sobre los corredores de comercio, ó que se grave con un impuesto especial otros ramos, tales como los comisionistas y agentes de bienes raices; que se introduzcan en las leyes vigentes reformas que permitan la exportación, con beneficio de prima (drawback), de los alcoholes destilados, en los envases provenientes de los rectificadores y vendedores al por mayor cuando se han recibido en dichos envases ó han sido trasegados á ellos á la vista de un empleado del Gobierno; que se imponga un impuesto especial que no baje de $480 por año á los destiladores que produzcan productos destilados de otros materiales que no sean manzanas, melocotones, uvas, peras, piñas, naranjas, albaricoques, bayas y ciruelas.

PROGRESOS ALCANZADOS POR LA DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA.

Durante los últimos años los importantísimos trabajos encomendados al Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos han venido extendiendo cada vez más su radio de acción, y durante el año pasado se introdujeron innovaciones en que hasta ahora nunca se había pensado. El informe anual presentado por el Hon. JAMES WILSON, Secretario de Agricultura, es un compendio del inmenso trabajo ejecutado en su Departamento durante el período que abarca. El Secretario hace hincapié en el éxito alcanzado en la extensión del servicio de la Oficina Meteorológica por el mar Caribe, que da oportunamente á los buques de la marina mercante y de guerra áviso de las tempestades que se forman allí. El rasgo característico principal del trabajo del año ha sido la introducción de nueva semillas y plantas, pues el Departamento tiene agentes suyos por todo el mundo recolectando semillas y estudiando árboles y plantas diversas. Por ejemplo, en Argelia se han encontrado especies de yerbas y de plantas que han demostrado ser de valor inmenso para la sección del sudoeste de los Estados Unidos, donde el clima y el terreno son iguales á los del país árido de donde son indígenas. Se ha descubierto una nueva especie de arroz que no se quiebra al descascararlo y que, según se cree, economizará grandes sumas de dinero a los cultivadores de este grano en los Estados del Sur.

Abundantes informes se han recogido acerca de las plantas que dan el caucho y la gutapercha, y se espera, durante el año venidero, que en las nuevas posesiones insulares del país se encontrarán zonas á propósito para el cultivo de estas plantas. Los Estados Unidos hoy importan como $30,000,000 en caucho por año, pero la producción del mundo apenas basta para satisfacer la demanda y los precios van en alza. Así, pues, si merced á los esfuerzos del Departamento se lograra producir en sus territorios una parte del caucho que necesita para su consumo, los beneficios que de ello se derivarían serían incalculables.

Los Estados Unidos pagan anualmente $5,000,000 por algodón egipcio, y es la opinión del Secretario que en las mencionadas islas podría producirse esta fibra. Muchas de las frutas tropicales importadas se pueden dar en Puerto Rico, el Hawai y las Filipinas.

Se ha adelantado mucho en los trabajos de cruzamiento de granos para conseguir variedades que resistan á la sequía, el tizón y el frío. Se están empleando los mismos métodos para producir naranjos y algodoneros que sean inmunes contra las enfermedades parasitarias.

La materia de bosques ocupa un gran espacio en el informe. El trabajo del nuevo Guarda-Bosques del Departamento demuestra que los cortadores de madera pueden seguir haciendo el corte como de costumbre, pero al mismo tiempo que pueden verificarlo más barato pueden dejar también los bosques en condición tal que puedan servir más adelante, y no como hasta ahora se ha venido practicando con el sistema en voga, que sólo causaba desperdicios y hacía grandes daños en ciertos lugares del país.

El trabajo de irrigación en el Oeste ha continuado, rehabilitando así ó reclamando muchos terrenos antes cubiertos de álcali. Las recomendaciones del Secretario en este respecto se extienden á experimentos en las regiones orientales y meridionales contiguas á las regiones áridas, y cree que el Congreso debe dictar medidas relativas á derechos de agua y lugares para estanques en el Oeste.

El trabajo de las Estaciones Experimentales se ha extendido hasta Alaska, y se recomienda que se implante en el Hawai, en Puerto Rico y en las Filipinas, de modo que estos lugares puedan abastecer de frutas tropicales á los Estados Unidos.

El informe en referencia también se ocupa de la cuestión de expansión comercial. Se están haciendo embarques regulares de mantequilla y de otros productos de lechería conservados en hielo, los cuales están dando resultados y haciendo conocer en los mercados del mundo aquellos productos de la industria americana.

También se están haciendo experimentos en la construcción de caminos, con la cooperación de las autoridades locales de algunos estados, entre otros la de caminos de prueba con los materiales que se encuentran en los diversos lugares y la de caminos carreteros con vías de acero.

Llámase la atención acerca de las nuevas posesiones insulares de los Estados Unidos, y el Secretario indica que se debería crear y hacer

cumplir una ley de inspección, pues tan luego como los americanos comiencen á establecerse en dichas islas, importarán sin duda muchas semillas y plantas nuevas de todas partes del mundo, y entonces pueden introducir también, sin pensarlo, enfermedades y plagas que arruinen las cosechas. Esto ha sucedido ya en otras partes. La actitud del Departamento en lo que se refiere á las nuevas posesiones del país es de cordial cooperación.

DERECHOS DE IMPORTACIÓN SOBRE LAS PIELES DE CARNERO.

Con fecha 15 de noviembre de 1899, Mr. O. L. SPAULDING, Subsecretario de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, emitió una resolución relativa al método que se debe emplear á fin de averiguar qué cantidad de lana contienen las pieles de carnero que se importan del Canadá. Este asunto puede ser de importancia para los países del Río de la Plata. "Parece que á ciertos cargamentos de pieles de carneros con su lana * * * se les impuso el derecho sobre el peso, ó sea el tanto por ciento de lana calculado, de conformidad con las decisiones emitidas por este Departamento el 1° de febrero de 1873 y el 1° de febrero de 1898, en las cuales se fijo dicho tanto por ciento en 54." El abogado del consignatario "manifiesta que, á pesar de esto, se ha demostrado prácticamente por los importadores y otras personas que dichas pieles rinden aproximadamente como la mitad del tanto por ciento atrás mencionado, ó sea de 25 á 30 por ciento del peso de las pieles con la lana, y sugiere que se determine la cantidad de lana en la citadas pieles, según el tanto por ciento que resulte después de arrancar la lana. * * *

"En vista de lo que antecede, y habiendo sido informado este Departamento de que en algunos casos los cambios hechos en el método de criar los carneros y de preparar sus pieles han alterado la proporción del peso de la lana respecto del peso de las pieles, ordeno á usted (el Administrador de Aduanas de Eastport, Maine) que en aquellos casos en que el importador pretenda que hay considerable diferencia entre el peso de la lana en las pieles por él importadas, y el fijado en los cuadros en que se da el tanto por ciento del peso de la lana adherida á las pieles, que fueron publicados con la resolución del Departamento de Hacienda fechada á 1° de febrero de 1898, el peso neto de la lana se establezca por medio de una demostración práctica. Estas instrucciones, sin embargo, no son aplicables á los cargamentos importados por los reclamantes y que ya no están bajo la custodia de la aduana."

CONDICIÓN DE LAS PRINCIPALES COSECHAS.

El informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos correspondiente al mes de noviembre, completa prácticamente el trabajo del año y muestra que 1899 es probablemente el año en que se ha producido mayor cantidad de maíz en este país. Según los datos obtenidos, ha habido un promedio de pro-

ducción de 25.2 *bushels* por acre, contra 24.8 *bushels* que fué la cantidad primeramente calculada en noviembre de 1898. El promedio en cuanto á la calidad es de 87.2 por ciento, contra 82.7 por ciento en noviembre de 1898. Se considera que 5.9 por ciento de la cosecha de maíz de 1898 se encontraba en poder de los agricultores el 1° de noviembre de 1899, mientras que la cantidad de la cosecha de 1897 que aquéllos tenían en sus manos el 1° de noviembre de 1898 ascendía á 7.25 por ciento.

Se calcula que la producción de maíz por acre en los principales Estados donde se cultiva este grano, es como sigue: Indiana, 37 *bushels*; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvania, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, y Missouri 25. Este cálculo no parece muy claro. El año pasado un cálculo semejante indicó, según datos oficiales, que la cosecha sería de 1,958,588,881 *bushels*. Sin embargo, el estadista HYDE opina que la extensión de terreno sembrado de trigo en 1899 tendrá varios millones de acres más que la de 1898. La cosecha total de 1898 fué de 1,924,184,660 *bushels*, mientras que la de 1896 ascendió á 2,283,875,000. Se cree que la producción en 1899 excederá en mucho á la de 1896 y que será de cerca de 2,400,000,000 *bushels*.

El promedio de la producción de trigo sarraceno es de 17.2 *bushels* por acre, contra 17.3 en noviembre de 1898, y 16.5 el promedio medio en el mismo mes durante diez años. El promedio en cuanto á la calidad es de 88.4 por ciento, contra 85.2 por ciento en 1898. Mientras que la producción por acre de este grano es algo mayor que lo fué en el año anterior, la extensión de terreno cultivada fué menos de la mitad. Se calcula que la cosecha será de 5,897,000 *bushels*, contra 11,722,000 en 1898.

La producción de patatas se calcula por término medio en 88.7 *bushels* por acre, lo cual es un gran aumento del promedio medio durante los último diez años. El promedio el 1° de noviembre de 1898 era de 75.2 *bushels*, que fué también el término medio durante diez años. La calidad fué de 91.4 por ciento, contra 84.7 en noviembre de 1898. Calculada sobre una extensión de 2,534,577 acres, la producción de patatas será de 224,816,979 *bushels*.

La producción media de heno será, según se calcula, de 1.35 toneladas por acre, contra 1.55 toneladas en 1898, y contra 1.27 toneladas, que fué el promedio medio durante diez años. Se cree que la producción de heno ascenderá á 57,382,820 toneladas, contra 66,377,000 toneladas en 1898, lo cual muestra una diminución de 9,000,000 toneladas.

En cuanto á las frutas, la producción, calculando las cosechas enteras, fué como sigue: manzanas, 47 por ciento; peras, 47; uvas, 68.

Según las indicaciones actuales, la producción de caña de azúcar será una cuarta parte menor que en 1898. En Louisiana, que es el estado que más produce, la diminución ha sido de 30 por ciento, y en otros estados ha llegado á 15 y hasta 30 por ciento.

El hecho de que los cálculos preliminares oficiales relativos á la cosecha de algodón han sido inferiores á la cantidad producida, se ha debido en cada caso á falta de conocimiento de la rapidez con que

aumenta la extensión de terreno dedicado á este cultivo. Es por esto que cuando la gran cosecha del año pasado demostró que dicha extensión había aumentado más allá de los cálculos oficiales y comerciales, se resolvió hacer una investigación especial respecto de la condición del referido cultivo durante este año. El año pasado el área productora medía cerca de 25,000,000 acres, y este año es de cerca de 23,500,000 acres, aunque probablemente los últimos datos demostrarán que es todavía menor. Según la investigación que se ha hecho, el promedio de producción por acre es uno de los más pequeños de que hay recuerdo en muchos años, y al calcular la cosecha máxima en 9,500,000 pacas se ha querido tomar la cifra más elevada posible, á fin de evitar un modo de ver demasiado pesimista respecto de la situación. En la actualidad todo indica que la cosecha será de menos de 9,000,000 pacas.

Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, la cosecha de trigo en este país durante el año de 1899 asciende á 547,300,000 *bushels*, ó sean 12.3 *bushels* por acre. La producción de trigo de invierno se calcula en 291,700,000 *bushels*, y la de trigo de primavera en 255,600,000 *bushels*. Agentes especiales del Departamento de Agricultura visitaron los principales Estados productores de trigo, y el cambio que se nota en los informes relativos á la extensión cultivada es el resultado de sus investigaciones. Se calcula en 30,150,000 acres la extensión de terreno últimamente sembrada de trigo de invierno, lo cual es un aumento de cerca de 200,000 acres sobre la extensión cultivada en el otoño de 1898. Todavía se está sembrando trigo en California y en algunos de los Estados del Sur, de manera que los datos dados atrás quedan sujetos á corrección. El promedio de la condición de la cosecha es 97.1.

LÍNEA DE VAPORES Á RIO JANEIRO.

El 15 de noviembre se verificó en la ciudad de Filadelfia una reunión del Club de Manufactureros con el fin de tratar del establecimiento de una línea de vapores entre aquel puerto y Río Janeiro. El Capitán CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, representante del Brasil en el Congreso Internacional, pronunció un discurso en favor del proyecto. Manifestó que el Presidente, el Congreso y el pueblo de su país estaban deseosos de hacer más estrechas las relaciones entre el Brasil y los Estados Unidos, porque creían que esto sería benéfico por ambas naciones. Al hablar de la gran cantidad de café brasileño que se importa en los Estados Unidos, se expresó así:

"Imposible parece que á pesar de este inmenso tráfico no existe un solo buque de los Estados Unidos que haga la carrera entre los dos países. Si este comercio ha de continuar é ir en aumento, algo debe de hacerse inmediatamente á fin de colocar á los Estados Unidos en las condiciones que les corresponden. Me refiero al establecimiento de líneas de navegación, al aumento de facilidades bancarias y á mayor diligencia por parte de los comerciantes de los Estados Unidos. Vuestra exportación no es menos importante que vuestra importación, y no habéis fomentado aquélla en vuestros negocios con el Brasil, aunque

sólo se necesita echar una ojeada para ver que grandes cantidades de vuestros productos podría ser enviadas al Brasil, si hubiera embarcaciones para conducirlas y existiera un sistema mejor de cambio internacional. El Brasil puede consumir grandes cantidades de vuestros productos, y entre ellos puedo mencionar la harina, los aceites minerales, el hierro, el acero, el carbón, los artículos de lencería, maquinaria y artefactos en general."

También hablaron sobre el mismo asunto los Señores JOHN G. GORDAN, ALBERT LUCAS y WILLIAM C. BULLITT. Como ciudadanos de Filadelfia, se manifestaron en favor del pronto establecimiento de la citada línea de vapores, y de que la compañía tuviese su residencia en dicha ciudad é hiciese sus operaciones con capital de los Estados Unidos. Se han nombrado comisiones para que estudien el punto y traten de llevar el proyecto activamente á su realización.

FACTURAS DE MERCANCÍAS DE MÉXICO.

El 18 de noviembre de 1899 el Secretario de Hacienda dirigió al Secretario de Estado la siguiente comuniación, que se refiere á las mercancías importadas de México á fin de que sean embarcadas para Europa: * * * "Debo manifestar que ninguna mercancía proveniente de México puede ser transportada como de tránsito á través de los Estados Unidos. Los efectos que no pagan derechos deben ser declarados para consumo al llegar á la frontera. Aquéllos que pagan derechos y que llegan de México para ser exportados, pueden ser declarados para ser depositados en almacenes y para su transportación al puerto de embarque, donde serán nuevamente declarados para ser otra vez depositados en almacenes y para la exportación. Pero en todo caso se debe presentar una factura consular." * * *

EXPORTACIÓN DE RELOJES DE PARED, DE MESA Y DE BOLSILLO, ASÍ COMO DE JOYAS.

La publicación denominada "Jewelers' Circular," correspondiente al 22 de noviembre de 1899, llama la atención á la creciente popularidad en los mercados extranjeros de los relojes de pared, de mesa y bolsillo, así como de las joyas, que se fabrican en los Estados Unidos. Esto se demuestra con evidencia en las tablas que se dieron á luz últimamente y en las cuales se expone la cantidad de estos artículos que ha sido exportada en los últimos dos años económicos. Durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899 la exportación total de relojes de toda clase ascendió á $1,043,621, contra un total de $953,557 en el año económico anterior. Relojes de bolsillo por valor de $819,810 fueron exportados durante el año económico de 1899, lo cual muestra un aumento de $47,898 sobre el año precedente. La exportación de joyas ascendió á $729,194 en 1889, contra $555,719 en 1898. En cuanto á otros efectos de oro y plata hubo también aumento, pues de $192,061 en 1898, ascendió á $233,962 en 1899. Hace muy pocos años que los Estados Unidos importaban gran cantidad de relojes de todas clases y de joyas.

UN ARADO AUTOMÓBIL.

El Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventor del cañón que lleva su nombre, acaba de inventar un arado automóbil. Esta máquina es construida como un automóbil ordinario, con arados de disco arreglados de tal manera que hacen el trabajo del instrumento que ahora se usa. El objeto que se tiene en mira es que la máquina pueda ser manejada por una sola persona, y se pretende que hará tanto trabajo como ocho hombres y doce caballos. Como fuerza motriz se puede usar gasolina ó petróleo. También puede usarse la máquina para hacer funcionar una trilladora ó una descascaradora de maíz y para otros fines. Hay otra máquina para uso en las plantaciones de algodón y que servirá para entresacar los plantíos cuando las plantas comienzan á crecer.

REFRIGERADORES FLOTANTES.

El General T. H. STANTON, Comisario General del Ejército de los Estados Unidos, hace mención en su informe de los buques refrigeradores, y dice que dieron resultados muy satisfactorios en cuanto á suplir de carne fresca á los barcos de guerra en Manila. Los tres buques refrigeradores empleados por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos no solamente pudieron proveer á las necesidades de la armada, sino que también llevaron grandes cantidades de víveres para el ejército que se halla en campaña en las Islas Filipinas.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del BOLETÍN MENSUAL se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional. San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

El "McClure's Magazine," en el número correspondiente á diciembre de 1899, trae un artículo ilustrado de Mr. RAY STANNARD BAKER, con el título de "El movimiento del Trigo," en el cual se hace particular referencia al origen y la cantidad del producto, la maquinaria y los métodos empleados para la distribución y el consumo rápido del cereal. Según el autor, hoy existen en el mundo cerca de 517,000,000 de consumidores de pan, y cada uno de ellos—hombre, mujer ó niño—consume por término medio un barril de harina (4½ *bushels* de trigo) por año. Los franceses, los ingleses, y los norte-americanos consumen más de este promedio, y tomando como base dicha proporción resulta que los consumidores de pan necesitan más de 2,300,000,000 de bushels de trigo por año.

"Si los campos de trigo del mundo producen tanto cuanto se necesita, la abundancia y la prosperidad existirán por todas partes, pero si la producción es menor entonces vendrá la miseria y el hambre. La Gran Bretaña consume en trece semanas toda su cosecha de trigo, y si los Estados Unidos llegaran á encontrarse completamente cortados del resto del mundo * * * entonces probablemente su población quedaría completamente extinguida por el hambre en tres meses. Lo mismo se aplica á cada uno de los países del occidente de Europa." La gran ola, por decirlo así, de trigo se mueve hacia el este y hacia el norte, hacia las ciudades del Viejo Mundo, desde los Estados Unidos, la República Argentina y Chile—y las olas más pequeñas van de oestes á sur. La China, que hasta ahora ha vivido del arroz, ha comenzado á gustar de la harina de trigo, y si todos sus habitantes comieren pan de trigo, podían acabar con la actual cosecha del mundo y pasar hambre. La Europa, aun comprendiendo las cosechas de los grandes trigales de Rusia, nunca produce trigo suficiente para satisfacer sus necesidades. Si hubiera un conflicto entre los Estados Unidos y toda la Europa, con sólo suspender aquellos el envío de comestibles la victoria estaría á medio ganar.

Sólo hay en Europa cinco países cuya producción de trigo es mayor que su consumo—Rusia, Hungría, Servia, Bulgaria y Rumania—pero el excedente apenas sería suficiente para Holanda, Bélgica, Escandinavia y Suiza. Los Estados Unidos con su enorme producción han venido naturalmente á ser el mayor comerciante. Las estadísticas siguientes dan una idea de las necesidades de los Estados Unidos: Para alimentar á 74,000,000 de personas (población calculada en 1899) á razón de 4½ *bushels* cada una, se necesitan 333,000,000 de *bushels;* para sembrar 47,000,000 de acres de trigo, que es el tamaño de los trigales, á razón de 1½ *bushels* por acre, son necesarios 70,500,000 *bushels* de trigo, ó sea por todo 403,500,000 *bushels.* El artículo de Mr. BAKER abunda

en hechos y guarismos presentados de modo que instruyen y distraen al lector, cuando no queda sorprendido del inmenso alcance de la materia.

"Hawaiian America: Something of Its History, Resources and Prospects" (América Hawaiana: Algo sobre su historia, su riqueza y sus esperanzas), por CASPAR WHITNEY (Harper & Brothers, 1899). Con esta obra, que los editores han publicado en forma muy artística, Mr. WHITNEY ha dado al público un trabajo valioso é interesante. El libro contiene numerosas ilustraciones que representan á los naturales del país, sus industrias, sus habitaciones, diversiones, etc., en las diferentes islas. Contiene además cinco mapas. El autor en su prefacio se expresa así: "No ha sido mi propósito escribir ni una historia ni una guía de viajeros para los que visiten las islas de Hawai, sino solamente dar una buena idea de las islas y de sus habitantes, su carácter, industrias, riquezas y esperanzas." Mr. WHITNEY ha realizado lo que se proponía de una manera agradable é interesante, pues su estilo difiere mucho del seco y árido que emplean generalmente los que escriben sobre asuntos de esta clase. El libro contiene diez y siete capítulos, dedicados á la cuestión del trabajo, á la industrial, al cultivo de la caña de azúcar y del café, á la educación de los naturales, etc. Á continuación de estos capítulos hay cuadros estadísticos relativos á las distancias, la población, la lepra, los bienes raíces, los terrenos baldíos, la educación, las industrias, los ferrocarriles, el comercio, etc.

Por dichos cuadros se ve que el 31 de diciembre de 1897 había en las islas, cuya población es de 109,000 habitantes, 1,100 leprosos. Al hablar de la educación, el autor nos dice que durante los últimos setenta años el pueblo de las islas se ha levantado "del más bajo estado de degradación á un nivel intelectual que, por término medio, es más elevado que el de todos los otros países, con excepción de los Estados Unidos, Prusia y Suiza, y que la riqueza por cabeza alcanza un promedio mayor que en cualquier otra parte del mundo." La riqueza por cabeza se calcula en $60. En los Estados Unidos, tomando como base una población de 72,000,000 de habitantes, la riqueza por cabeza es de $23.70. En 1884 el 70.73 por ciento de los habitantes que habían llegado á la edad de recibir educación, asistía á las escuelas. En 1890 la proporción era de 81.59 por ciento, y en 1896 alcanzó á la notable cifra de 96.20 por ciento.

"Indice del Comercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo y Clasificado de los Miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de los Estados Unidos," es el título de una obra que acaba de publicar la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de Filadelfia. Es un manual en que se dan á conocer á los comerciantes interesados en los productos de los Estados Unidos, las principales manufacturas de este país. El libro contiene los nombres de todos los miembros de la Asociación Nacional que fabrican artículos para la exportación, y está dividido en

cuatro partes, á saber: la parte primera contiene una lista alfabética de los miembros y una ligera relación de los artículos que fabrican, así como otras noticias útiles á los compradores. La parte segunda es una lista clasificada de los miembros. La parte tercera contiene las direcciones cablegráficas registradas de los mismos. La parte cuarta contiene los anuncios de los miembros.

El primer tomo publicado por la Asociación salió á luz en enero de 1899, y la edición en inglés fué de 5,000 ejemplares. El libro de que ahora se trata está impreso en español, y es destinado á circular en los países donde se habla dicho idioma. Á principios de 1900 se hará otra edición en inglés y en francés para ser distribuida en la Exposición de París. El índice no deja nada que desear y responde en todo á los fines para que fué publicado. La obra se distribuye gratis y se pueden obtener ejemplares en la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ó en la de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de Filadelfia.

La casa editorial de Nueva York, "The Audit Publishing Co.," acaba de publicar el segundo número del "Directory of Directors," que contiene 700 páginas, en donde aparece una lista completa de las corporaciones de Nueva York y sus respectivos directores. Es interesante la materia de que trata la obra, á la par que de valor, por los informes curiosos que da referente al manejo de las grandes corporaciones. El nombre de un personaje notable figura en la dirección de 88 compañías, mientras que el de Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, reputado como el hombre más rico de América, aparece sólo en la dirección de tres compañías.

Con el título de "Maximilian in Mexico" la casa editorial llamada "Century Company," de Nueva York, acaba de publicar una obra de SARAH YORK STEVENSON, que contiene las reminiscencias de la autora de la invasión francesa de México en 1862–1867. La autora pasó varios años de su primera juventud en relaciones con la Corte Imperial de México, cuando Napoleón III hizo el desastroso experimento de establecer en territorio de América una forma de gobierno europea. El libro está dedicado á la memoria del malogrado Señor Don MATÍAS ROMERO, Embajador que fué de México en los Estados Unidos.

Entre las materias de que trata el "Bankers' Magazine" correspondiente á noviembre, se encuentran las siguientes: "El Excedente del Tesoro y el Mercado Monetario," "Refundición de la Deuda Pública de los Estados Unidos," "Peligros Económicos de las Rentas Deficientes y Excedentes," etc.

El "Importers and Exporters' Journal" contiene en su número de 11 de noviembre de 1899, un interesante artículo sobre "El cacao y el chocolate, su origen y preparación."

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII. DEZEMBRO DE 1899. No. 6.

ACTA DA SESSÃO DA COMMISSÃO EXECUTIVA DA UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

A Commissão Executiva da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas reuniu-se na sala de recepção da Secretaria de Estado, Quinta-Feira, 23 de Novembro de 1899.

A reunião foi presidida pelo Honrado JOHN HAY, Secretario de Estado.

Os outros membros que estiveram presentes foram:

O Sr. Dr. MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Ministro da Republica Argentina.

O Sr. JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica.

O Sr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas, tambem esteve presente.

Tendo manifestado o Secretario de Estado que o objecto da reunião era ouvir ler o relatorio annual do director, o Senhor Director o leu em seguida. O dito relatorio, que leva a data de 23 de Novembro de 1899, se publica á continuação.

O relatorio foi declarado inteiramente satisfactorio e approvado pelos membros da commissão. Á moção do Sr. MÉROU, apresentaram-se ao Sr. ROCKHILL os agradecimentos da commissão pelos bons serviços que tem prestado á Secretaria.

A commissão declarou unanimemente que em quanto ás recommendações contidas no relatorio, isso se deixasse ao juizo do Senhor Director, e, ao pedido deste, se resolveu que se adopte o systema metrico para calcular o valor das moedas, assim como para os pesos e medidas.

Depois disto o Sr. MÉROU disse como segue:

"Infelizmente para mim, esta é a ultima sessão da Commissão Executiva á que tenho a honra de assistir como membro da mesma, porque,

como sabeis, vou partir para o meu paiz. Aproveito esta occasião para dar-vos meus agradecimentos pela cortezia com que sempre me tendes tratado, e para despedir-me de vos, meus collegas da Commissão Executiva, assegurando-vos que no novo posto que vou a occupar na minha patria, seguirei tomando vivo interesse nesta Secretaria, de cuja Commissão Executiva tenho tido a honra de formar parte. Posso assegurar ao Sr. ROCKHILL que sempre me encontrará disposto a prestar-lhe minha cooperação, e exporei ao meu Governo a importancia e utilidade desta União Internacional das Republicas Americanas. Estou convencido de que a Secretaria não podia estar a cargo de pessoa mais competente e não duvido que o Senhor Director continuará introduzindo melhoras no futuro que tenderão a fazer mais estreitas as relações entre os nossos paizes."

O Senhor Secretario de Estado replicou com as seguintes palavras:

"Estou seguro de que todos sentimos separar-nos do Sr. MÉROU que, como membro desta Commissão, tem mostrado sempre tanta capacidade como diligencia. Entretanto, ainda que sentimos sua partida, não podemos menos que felicital-o ao ser elevado em seu paiz a um posto altamente honroso e de grande responsabilidade. Nos agrada especialmente saber que não deixará de tomar interesse nos trabalhos desta Secretaria, mas que no elevado posto que vai occupar em sua patria, nos prestará valiosos serviços na obra a que estamos dedicados, que é a de dar incremento ás relações commerciaes entre todos os paizes deste continente e fazer mais estreitos os laços de amizade e sympathia que felizmente nos unem."

Á moção do Sr. CALVO, deram-se instrucções ao Senhor Director da Secretaria para que communicasse ao Senhor Ministro MÉROU os sentimentos expressos, com motivo de sua partida, pelo Presidente da Commissão.

Levantou-se a sessão.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 23 de Novembro de 1899.

RELATORIO ANNUAL DO DIRECTOR.

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,
Washington, 23 de Novembro de 1899.

Ao Senhor Secretario de Estado, Presidente da Commissão Executiva da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas, e aos membros da mesma.

SENHORES: O Sr. FREDERICO EMORY, meu predecessor nesta Secretaria, vos submetteu no dia 29 de Março seu relatorio final sobre os trabalhos da mesma, como supplemento ao seu relatorio annual de data de 17 de Dezembro de 1898, o qual mostra a condição em que se encontrava a Secretaria um mez antes de que eu entrara a fazer-me cargo d'ella.

As contas da Secretaria para o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899 são como segue:

Receita e despeza durante o exercicio que terminou em 30 de Junho de 1899.

RECEITA.

Verba votada			$36,000.00
Balanço da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc., 1º de Julho de 1898		$649.82	
Quotas das Republicas Americanas	$5,762.78		
Receita proveniente de annuncios	$27,005.98		
De vendas de publicações	2,622.45		
	29,628.43		
		35,391.21	
			36,041.03
Total			72,041.03

DESPEZA.

Da verba votada, 1899		36,000.00	
Da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc		34,409.73	
			70,409.73
Balanço, 1º de Julho de 1899			1,631.30

Quadro detalhado dos gastos durante o exercicio que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899.

	Da verba votada, 1899.	Da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc.	Totaes.
Ordenados dos empregados	$30,783.08	$9,069.55	$39,852.63
Artigos de escriptorio	100.25	877.55	977.80
Aluguel da casa da Secretaria	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Bibliotheca	37.28	116.75	154.03
Sellos de correio	46.11	915.65	961.76
Moveis	22.65	149.75	172.40
Impressões	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissões por contractos para annuncios feitos antes do dia 1º de Março de 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Gastos varios	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

Pelo que precede se vê que no dia 1º de Julho de 1899, ao começar o presente exercicio, havia um saldo a favor da Secretaria de $1,631.30. Nesta conta não está incluida a quantia que se deve a Typographia Nacional por trabalhos feitos para a Secretaria durante o anno economico que terminou na data mencionada.

O quadro seguinte mostra que ao começar o presente anno economico se devia á Typographia Nacional, segundo contas apresentadas durante o exercicio de 1897–98, um saldo de $6,388.09:

Conta apresentada pelo Director da Typographia Nacional para o anno economico de 1899.

Total das contas apresentadas para o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899	$34,870.61
Quantia a deduzir da somma cobrada por composição e trabalhos typographicos, segundo arranjos feitos com o Director da Typographia Nacional, acreditada á Secretaria	2,982.48
Somma total por pagar	31,888.13

Somma paga da quantia annual votada pelo Congresso, 1899	$3,279.25	
Somma paga da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc., durante o exercicio de 1899	$14,707.28	
Quantia paga durante o actual anno economico	7,513.51	
	22,220.79	
Quantia total paga		25,500.04
Saldo por pagar		6,388.09

Ao encarregar-me desta Secretaria, pareceu-me que era necessario reduzir os gastos, especialmente visto que a receita proveniente de annuncios era cada dia menor e havia pouca esperança de que augmentasse.

Mediante varias mudanças feitas na impressão do BOLETIM, sem que estas tenham affectado a qualidade do trabalho typographico nem reduzido a edição, que continua sendo de 11,000 exemplares, calcula-se que o custo desta publicação não excederá de $14,000 durante o anno corrente.

Os ordenados que a Secretaria paga, ainda que os tenho reduzido de modo a obter uma economia de $2,300, ascendem a cerca de $34,500 annualmente. É possivel effectuar maior economia ainda, si a Commissão Executiva o approva, sem que soffram os trabalhos da Secretaria.

A impressão dos manuaes não occasiona gastos muito consideraveis á Secretaria, e espero que a preparação dessas obras continue activamente e sem interrupção.

Observar-se-ha que na conta que antecede relativa aos gastos da Secretaria, é insignificante a quantia expendida pela bibliotheca. Uma somma consideravel deve ser dedicada á compra de publicações e mappas referentes á America Central e do Sul, mas é de lamentar que isto não seja possivel por causa dos gastos ordinarios da Secretaria.

Submetto-vos em seguida o orçamento da receita e despeza para o anno fiscal que terminará no dia 30 de Junho de 1900:

Orçamento da receita:		
Verba votada		$36,000.00
Quotas das Republicas Americanas		15,813.53
Annuncios		3,000.00
Venda de publicações		1,500.00
Total		56,313.53
Orçamento da despeza na proporção actual:		
Ordenados	$34,540.00	
Aluguel	2,000.00	
Impressões	14,000.00	
Artigos de escriptorio e moveis	1,000.00	
Sellos	900.00	
Gastos diversos	2,000.00	
		54,440.00
Balanço		1,873.53

Neste orçamento figura toda a quantia que devem pagar as Republicas Latino-Americanas, ainda que em annos passados tem faltado como $3,500 para chegar a esta somma. Si se subtrahir esta quantia, haverá

um deficit durante o anno de $1,700, mantendo-se os gastos como são na actualidade, e isto sem tomar em consideração o que se deve á Typographia Nacional como balanço da conta do anno passado, e algumas reclamações de larga data que ainda existem contra a Secretaria. Espero que seja possivel pagar o que se deve pelas economias que tenho indicado e a collecção de algumas quantias que ainda se devem á Secretaria por conta de annuncios, as quaes montam a $3,858.74. Uma parte dellas pode talvez ser arrecadada por meio dos agentes que ultimamente teem sido empregados com este objecto.

Meus predecessores manifestaram muitas vezes a opinião de que podia fazer-se frente ao custo do BOLETIM com a renda proveniente de annuncios. Não creio que esta esperança seja realizada. Com o systema que agora se segue na Secretaria em conformidade com vossas instrucções, systema ao que dou minha mais sincera approvação, a receita proveniente de taes fontes não pode ser calculada em mais de $3,000 a $4,000 por anno, porque é um facto, segundo estou bem informado, que para obter annuncios ha que solicital-os, e este methodo tem sido prohibido com muita razão pela Secretaria. No transcurso de algum tempo pode ser que augmente a receita que provem das ditas fontes, mas pelo momento não deve ser esperado que isso succeda de um modo consideravel. Tambem não se pode contar com a venda do BOLETIM como fonte de recursos, como se verá pelo quadro seguinte:

Subscripções ao Boletim Mensal.

Anno.	Annual.	Semestral.
1897	190	6
1898	160	12
1899	92	15

O BOLETIM MENSAL.

Como já fica dito, a edição do BOLETIM MENSAL ascende a 11,000 exemplares, dos quaes como 9,000 são enviados para a America Central e a America do Sul, e uns 1,300 são distribuidos nos Estados Unidos e outros paizes do mundo. O seguinte quadro mostra o numero de exemplares do BOLETIM que tem sido remettidos a diversos paizes no mez de Novembro deste anno:

Distribuição do Boletim durante o mez de Novembro.

Republica Argentina	444	Colombia	184
Austria	2	Costa Rica	98
As Azores	1	Cuba	287
Belgica	3	Republica Dominicana	140
Bolivia	56	Equador	113
Brazil	375	Egypto	1
Canadá	171	Inglaterra	5
As Ilhas de Cabo Verde	5	França	7
Chile	162	Allemanha	4

Distribuição do Boletim durante o mez de Novembro—Continúa.

Guatemala	495	Peru	133
Haiti	196	Porto Rico	200
Hollanda	1	Salvador	25
Honduras	207	Estados Unidos	1,307
Jamaica	60	Uruguay	143
Japão	1	Venezuela	546
Mexico	5,101	As Antilhas menores	38
Nova Zelandia	1	Total	10,636
Nicaragua	97		
Paraguay	27		

De tempo em tempo tem-se enviado aos representantes diplomaticos acreditados em Washington pelas Republicas latino-americanas que formam parte da União Internacional, uma lista das pessoas a quem se remette em seus respectivos paizes o BOLETIM MENSAL, pedindo-os que façam as alterações ou additamentos de nomes que lhes pareçam opportunos, indicando assim mesmo os melhores meios de fazer mais extensa a circulação das publicações da Secretaria em cada Republica. Desta maneira a circulação do BOLETIM na America Central e na do Sul vai augmentando constantemente, a do mez corrente excedendo á de Outubro proximo passado em 865 exemplares. Si a franquia postal fosse concedida por algumas das nações latino-americanas que ainda não a têm outorgado, a circulação destes poderia augmentar consideravelmente.

É de sentir-se que seja tão pequeno o numero de exemplares do BOLETIM que circula nos Estados Unidos. Ainda que o nosso povo pode dispor de outras publicações nas quaes se dão informações sobre as Republicas latino-americanas, tenho a convicção de que em nenhuma outra se encòntram tantos e tão recentes dados de fonte fidedigna como no BOLETIM MENSAL. Estou inteiramente de accordo com o meu predecessor, o Sr. EMORY, em que afim de estender a circulação desta revista, seria opportuno solicitar do Congresso dos Estados Unidos que facilitasse os meios necessarios para fazer uma edição de 5,000 exemplares mensalmente durante o proximo anno economico que terminará o 30 de Junho de 1901, para ser distribuida nos Estados Unidos, e desta maneira fará conhecer melhor as riquezas das Republicas latino-americanas e as opportunidades que offerecem ao commercio.

Para que o BOLETIM seja de maior utilidade, a Secretaria tem tratado de obter de todas as publicações periodicas da Europa, assim como das da America do Norte e do Sul. Actualmente se recebem 1,725 periodicos, incluindo os diarios, e todas as informações de importancia que contêm são traduzidas, compiladas e devidamente classificadas para conserval-as como obras de consulta no archivo da Secretaria. Na actualidade se fazem traducções do hespanhol, portuguez, francez, allemão, e italiano. Têm-se dado os passos necessarios para que a Secretaria receba, em qualidade de permutas, maior numero de publicações e acerca deste particular devo dar meus mais sinceros agradecimentos á

Repartição de Permutas Internacionaes da "Smithsonian Institution," que tem autorisado aos seus agentes no exterior para que nos prestem seus serviços com o fim indicado. É de esperar que dentro de pouco tempo esta Secretaria receberá com regularidade quasi todos os periodicos que lhe são de interesse. Publica-se agora no BOLETIM uma lista de todos os periodicos que se recebem e os mais valiosos delles são conservados em nosso archivo. Os que não são de interesse particular para a Secretaria são enviados á Bibliotheca do Congresso para o seu gabinete de leitura.

Como outro meio de obter informações para a Secretaria e de fazer que no BOLETIM se reflecta a condição actual de todos os paizes que formam a União Internacional, tem-se solicitado a cooperação de pessoas proeminentes e fidedignas que, com o caracter de Membros Correspondentes Honorarios da União Internacional, se servam subministrar de tempo em tempo á Secretaria informações que tendam a estender e completar o conhecimento que temos das condições economicas e das riquezas de seus respectivos paizes.

Todos os representantes diplomaticos dos paizes latino-americanos teem prestado da maneira mais cortez sua cooperação á Secretaria para que obtenha os serviços dos mencionados Membros Correspondentes, que não duvido contribuirão para dar maior ampliação aos trabalhos da mesma.

Graças ao interesse que tem mostrado nos trabalhos da Secretaria o Director da Typographia Nacional, a impressão do BOLETIM tem sido muito facilitado, de tal sorte que na actualidade pode ser distribuido dentro de dez dias depois de haver sido dado á imprensa, o qual tem augmentado consideravelmente sua importancia.

MANUAES.

Quando o Sr. EMORY apresentou seu ultimo relatorio (Dezembro de 1898) o Manual de Venezuela tinha sido enviado á imprensa, e tem sido publicado já em duas partes, a saber: Parte 1ª em inglez; parte 2ª em hespanhol. Devido a não haver-se podido obter o ultimo mappa em que se expõe a nova divisão da Republica em Estados, omittiu-se sua publicação, segundo se explica na nota que apparece na obra.

Ao terminar-se este trabalho, começou-se a traduzir do inglez para o hespanhol o Manual do Mexico, que já estava em paginas, e ao mesmo tempo se fazia a traducção do Manual do Brazil, escripto em portuguez pelo distincto Senhor Secretario da Legação brazileira em Washington, Sr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

Nessa epocha dirigi uma communicação aos representantes em Washington dos paizes que pertencem á União Internacional, pedindo-os que me prestassem officialmente sua cooperação para obter de seus respectivos Governos as ultimas informações officiaes afim de que servissem na preparação das novas edições dos manuaes, e assim mesmo os pedi que me ajudassem no dito trabalho com sua cooperação pessoal e com suas indi-

cações. As respostas recebidas são altamente satisfactorias, e já teem sido enviados á Secretaria numerosos livros e documentos impressos.

O Manual do Mexico estaria terminado a esta data, si não se tivesse considerado conveniente fazer a obra mais completa do que era, introduzindo nella certas materias que antes tinham sido tratadas ligeiramente ou desattendidas por completo, e dando os ultimos dados estatisticos que tem sido possivel obter. Tambem tem occasionado demora neste trabalho a necessidade de preparar um novo mappa da Republica das cartas geographicas e de outras fontes de informação disponiveis. O novo mappa conterá dados de caracter economico e nelle serão indicados os terrenos sob cultivo, as florestas, minas, estradas de ferro, linhas telegraphicas e outras cousas que possam ser de interesse aos leitores. Trata-se de publicar de tempo em tempo, tão logo como se tenham obtido sufficientes dados, mappas semelhantes das outras Republicas, a necessidade dos quaes faz-se sentir notavelmente. A Secretaria conta com os serviços de um debuxador experimentado e se tem dado principio á preparação do mappa do Mexico. Tambem estão-se delineando os das outras Republicas, todos em uma escala grande e uniforme.

Afim de que estes manuaes sejam dignos de confiança, obras modelo, si fosse possivel, e que estejam á altura da importancia que as Republicas teem e da posiçao que, como representante dellas, occupa a Secretaria, teem-se solicitado os serviços de auctoridades proeminentes dos Estados Unidos e das outras nações com o objecto de que preparem aquella parte dos ditos manuaes que exige o trabalho de peritos. Em alguns casos os referidos serviços teem sido obtidos já.

Quando estiverem terminados os manuaes do Mexico e do Brazil, proceder-se-há a preparar os dos outros paizes, de conformidade com os dados então disponiveis. Publicar-se-hão edições pequenas e tão logo como se obtenham mais recentes dados estatisticos, se darão a luz outras.

A BIBLIOTHECA.

Não se pode insistir demasiado na importancia de que a bibliotheca da Secretaria contenha todas as publicações de que tem necessidade para satisfazer aos fins para que foi estabelecida. Deveriam ser encontrados nella todas as obras, já sejam de caracter official ou não, todos os mappas, e documentas que se relacionam com qualquer das Republicas latino-americanas, porque é o unico lugar nos Estados Unidos onde naturalmente se buscarão taes publicações. A Secretaria fará todos os esforços para alcançar este fim e com a bondosa cooperação dos representantes diplomaticos das Republicas latino-americanas em Washington, a dos seus Governos, e das doutas sociedades de seus differentes paizes e de particulares interessados no bom exito da Secretaria, é de esperar que se obtenha o objecto desejado.

A bibliotheca contem na actualidade cerca de 5,000 volumes. Muitos destes pertencem a certo genero de litteratura que, estrictamente

fallando, não é de caracter apropriado á bibliotheca desta Secretaria. Durante os ultimos seis annos teem-se recebido poucas obras novas na bibliotheca. Seria conveniente dispor dos livros inuteis que temos e dos exemplares de outros que existem por duplicata, vendendo-os ou trocando-os por outros, afim de que haja lugar nos estantes para obras que tratam das Republicas americanas e de seus interesses. As obras que devem ser conservadas como um nucléo para o futuro desenvolvimento da bibliotheca são as que versam sobre as materias seguintes:

(1) Agricultura e riquezas agricolas.
(2) Colonisação e terras publicas.
(3) Commercio.
(4) Obras geographicas.
(5) Historia.
(6) Leis, relatorios officiaes, projectos de lei e documentos.
(7) Minas, mineração e riquezas mineraes.
(8) Estradas de ferro.
(9) Estatisticas.
(10) Viagens e descripções.
(11) Obras varias de consulta, diccionarios, etc.

Actualmente está-se fazendo um catalogo dos livros da bibliotheca e classificando-os segundo os differentes paizes de que tratam. Incluir-se-ha neste catalogo um indice de todos os livros importantes que tratem da America latina e de seus interesses, e que se encontrem na Bibliotheca do Congresso e nas dos Ministerios, assim como uma lista dos artigos mais importantes que teem apparecido ultimamente em publicações periodicas e que versam sobre o mesmo assumpto.

Desejo completar a collecção de leis, de tratados com potencias estrangeiras e de estatisticas officiaes de cada um dos paizes representados na bibliotheca porque todo isto está muito incompleto.

Tenho dirigido communicações aos representantes diplomaticos das diversas Republicas nos Estados Unidos, enviando-lhes listas das publicações officiaes de seus respectivos paizes que agora existem na Secretaria, indicando-lhes os volumes que nos fazem falta, e solicitando delles que obtenham para nossa bibliotheca os trabalhos que seus respectivos Governos publiquem. Por este meio se teem obtido varias publicações de importancia, e todos os mencionados representantes teem offerecido á Secretaria que darão os passos necessarios afim de subministrar-lhe as obras que necessita.

Teem-se inscripto em tarjetas os nomes dos mappas e atlas que temos e que são como 85, afim de que sejam mais accessiveis. Teem-se visitado outras bibliothecas de Washington e se teem feito listas dos mappas que contem referentes á America Central e do Sul. Os nomes destes serão tambem inscriptos em tarjetas, as quaes serão incluidas no já citado catalogo.

Antes do 1° de Setembro de 1899 se recebiam 1,034 periodicos. Deste numero a Secretaria subscrevia a 19 e 54 lhe eram enviados em

qualidade de permutas pelo BOLETIM MENSAL. Agora se recebem com regularidade, por assignatura, permuta ou gratuitamente, 1,725 periodicos, incluindo os diarios.

D'aqui em diante serão publicados listas semestraes das novas obras que se receberem, as quaes serão enviadas ás bibliothecas, repartições publicas e ás pessoas que as desejarem.

O interesse que teem mostrado nesta Secretaria e o cordial apoio que lhe teem dado não sómente os Ministerios do Governo dos Estados Unidos, mas tambem todos os Governos das Republicas latino-americanas e seus empregados diplomaticos e consulares neste paiz, são cada dia mais notaveis e valiosos, e além de facilitar os trabalhos da Secretaria, a fazem mais util, ampliam sua esphera de acção e põem de manifesto, de uma maneira emphatica, tanto seu caracter essencialmente internacional, como a estreiteza da União.

Si se tomam em consideração os serviços que a Secretaria tem prestado durante os dez annos de sua existencia e os que pode prestar no futuro a todas as Republicas da America do Norte e do Sul que hoje se interessam activamente em seus trabalhos, devemos estar seguros de que as esperanças dos que projectaram sua fundação serão realizadas, e de que será um agente poderoso para promover, mediante um conhecimento mais perfeito e amplio dos varios paizes deste continente, seus habitantes e suas ideas, não sómente reciprocas relações commerciaes, beneficas para todos, abrindo novos mercados aos productos de cada um, mas para fazer mais fortes os laços de amizade e confiança que ligam todos os paizes da União Internacional.

Tenho a honra de ser, Senhores, vosso obediente servidor,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director.*

MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE McKINLEY.

O Senhor Presidente MCKINLEY dirigiu ao quinquagesimo-sexto Congresso dos Estados Unidos, em sua sessão de 5 de dezembro de 1899, sua terceira mensagem annual. A relação dos acontecimentos que teem occorrido nos mezes decorridos desde que se encerraram as sessões do quinquagesimo-quinto Congresso, os quaes são tratados minuciosamente, assim como a recommendação das medidas importantes que o Congresso anterior deixou de resolver, fazem muito extensa a presente mensagem.

Naturalmente occupa o primeiro lugar na mensagem do Presidente a grande perda que o Presidente e a nação tem sustido ultimamente na morte do Vice-Presidente HOBART.

Dão-se em seguida os paragraphos sobre o commercio e as finanças assim como os com relação ás Republicas latino-americanas, Cuba e as novas possessões dos Estados Unidos:

PROSPERIDADE DO PAIZ.

O quinquagesimo-sexto Congresso, ao dar principio á sua sessão ordinaria, encontra o paiz em condições de extraordinaria prosperidade, de boa vontade entre seus habitantes e em relações de paz e amizade com todos os Governos do mundo. Nosso commercio exterior tem augmentado muito em volume e em valor. As importações e exportações combinadas deste anno são as maiores que se teem visto em nossa historia durante um só anno. Só nossas exportações em 1899 excederam em mais de um bilhão de dollares as nossas importações e exportações combinadas em 1870. As importações, por cabeça, são 20 por cento menos que em 1870, emquanto que as exportações, por cabeça, são 58 por cento mais que em 1870, o qual mostra que os Estados Unidos podem não só satisfazer as necessidades da sua crescente população, mas contribuir a prover as de outras nações.

A exportação de productos agricolas foi por valor de $784,776,142. A de artigos manufacturados ascendeu a $339,592,146, sendo maior que no anno precedente. É'digno de notar o facto de que os unicos annos em nossa historia em que os productos de nossas fabricas, vendidos no exterior, excederam os que se compraram no exterior são 1898 e 1899.

A receita do Governo proveniente de todas as fontes durante o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, faz um total de $610,982,004.35. A receita aduaneira montou a $206,128,481.75, e a renda interior a $273,437,161.51.

As despezas durante o exercicio ascenderam a $700,093,564.02, deixando um deficit de $89,111,559.67.

O Secretario da Fazenda calcula que as receitas durante o presente anno economico subirão a $640,958,112, e as despezas a $600,958,112, o qual deixará um excedente de $40,000,000.

No exercicio findo a 30 de Junho de 1899, a receita proveniente da renda interior augmentou como $100,000,000.

O estado satisfactorio do Thesouro é indicado pelo facto de que no dia 1º de Dezembro de 1899, o balanço em caixa disponivel era de $278,004,837.72, dos quaes $239,744,905.36 eram em ouro acunhado e em barras. A confiança que reina em todo o paiz tem feito mais geral o uso do ouro e os direitos aduaneiros são pagos agora quasi exclusivamente no dito metal.

MANUTENÇÃO DO PADRÃO DE OURO.

Com urgencia recommendo que para conservar o actual padrão de ouro e de manter "a proporção no valor das moedas dos dous metaes (ouro e prata) e o mesmo valor sempre em cada dollar tanto no mercado como no pagamento de dividas" se dêm ao Secretario da Fazenda faculdades addicionaes para vender titulos dos Estados Unidos e fazer uso de outros meios efficazes que se considerem necessarios para os fins indicados. A dita autorisação deve abranger a faculdade de vender

titulos a largos e a curtos prazos, segundo as circumstancias o exijam, e deveria ser fixado um typo de interesse mais baixo que o fixado pela lei de 14 de Janeiro de 1875.

Ainda que não ha na actualidade panico commercial que faça retirar o ouro da caixa do Governo, mas que ao contrario a confiança é tão geral que o dito metal vai ao Thesouro para ser trocado por papel moeda, todavia, esta mesma situação parece indicar que é este o momento mais opportuno para tomar disposições adequadas afim de assegurar a continuação do padrão de ouro e da confiança publica na habilidade e proposito do Governo de fazer frente a todas suas obrigações na moeda que o mundo civilizado reconhece como a melhor. As transacções economicas do Governo fazem-se com o ouro por base. Recebemos ouro quando vendemos titulos dos Estados Unidos e empregamos ouro para pagal-os. Conservamos a proporção de todas as moedas cunhadas ou emittidas por auctoridade do Governo e fazemos todo isto com os meios que temos á mão.

Felizmente, não nós vemos obrigados na actualidade a recorrer a emprestimos para prover-nos de ouro. Isto se tem feito no passado e pode ser necessario fazel-o no futuro. É necessario, pois, ponderar desde logo os melhores meios de fazer frente á emergencia quando se apresentar, e os melhores meios são aquelles que são os mais certos e os mais economicos. Os de que agora podemos dispor não teem a vantagem da economia nem da precisão. Já temos eliminado uma das causas de nossas difficuldades economicas nos annos de 1893, 1894, 1895 e 1896. Nossas receitas igualam agora a nossas despezas, e já não é motivo de alarma a deficiencia de nossas rendas.

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A MARINHA MERCANTE.

A importancia de nossa marinha mercante como um meio de dar incremento ao nosso trafico e de fortalecer nossa condição de potencia maritima deve chamar a immediata attenção do Congresso. Nosso desenvolvimento nacional não será inteiramente satisfactorio emquanto nossas industrias não sejam accompanhadas de um progresso equivalente em nosso trafico maritimo. Existe sufficiente auctoridade constitucional para emittir leis que deem ao paiz força maritima proporcionada ao seu progresso industrial e ao seu posto entre as nações da terra. * * *

Durante o anno passado, os navios americanos transportaram menor quantidade de nossas importações que em qualquer outro anno de nossa historia, e nosso povo viu com tristeza até onde dependiamos da marinha mercante de outros paizes. * * *

QUESTÃO DE LIMITES ENTRE O CHILE E A ARGENTINA.

A antiga questão de limites entre a Republica Argentina e o Chile foi resolvida em Março proximo passado pelo laudo de uma Commissão de arbitramento, no qual o Ministro dos Estados Unidos em Buenos Ayres seviu como terceiro em discordia.

Tem-se feito muito progresso no sentido de celebrar um tratado de extradição com a Republica Argentina. Tendo sido approvado pelo Congresso dos Estados Unidos e ratificado pela Argentina, o unico que se requer para effectuar a troca é chegar a um convenio relativo a ligeiras alterações.

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RELAÇÕES CORDIAES COM O BRAZIL.

O tratado de extradição celebrado com o Brazil no dia 14 de Maio de 1897 tem sido ratificado pelo Congresso brazileiro.

Durante o verão passado dous navios de guerra dos Estados Unidos visitaram alguns portos do Brazil em amistosa missão e foram cordialmente recebidos. A viagem do *Wilmington* arriba do Amazonas occasionou uma desintelligencia passageira, devida a certa confusão em quanto a obter permissão para visitar o interior do paiz e fazer estudos de interesse geral da navegação, mas o incidente arranjou-se facilmente de conformidade com as estreitas relações de amizade que este Governo tem tratado assiduamente de cultivar com as nações do Continente Occidental.

BOA VONTADE DA COLOMBIA.

A reclamação a que deu lugar o embargo pelas auctoridades de Colombia do periodico "The Panama Star and Herald," propriedade de cidadãos dos Estados Unidos, tem sido arranjada depois de uma controversia que durou alguns annos, mediante um convenio no qual se fixou em $30,000 a indemnização que o Governo colombiano deve pagar em tres prestações de $10,000 cada uma.

A boa vontade de Colombia para com o nosso paiz tem-se manifestado novamente com o facto de haver offerecido toda a classe de facilidades á Commissão do Canal de Nicaragua para os estudos que emprehenderá prompto no Canal de Panama e em outros projectados atravez do Isthmo de Darien.

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Depois de um largo periodo de tranquilidade, a vizinha Republica de Santo Domingo tem sido ultimamente theatro de uma revolução. Começou esta com o assassinato do Presidente HEUREAUX no mez de Julho proximo passado e terminou depois que o Vice-Presidente que lhe succedeu, rendeu-se aos insurgentes. O primeiro acto do Governo provisorio foi chamar o paiz a uma eleição de Presidente e de assemblea constituinte. JOÃO ISIDRO JIMENEZ foi eleito Presidente e tomou posse do seu cargo no dia 14 de Novembro. Teem-se estabelecido relações com o novo Governo.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS E SALVADOR.

A união experimental de Nicaragua, Honduras e o Salvador, sob o nome da Republica Maior da America Central, foi rota nos ultimos dias de Novembro de 1898 com a separação do Salvador em momentos em que

parecia que estava a ponto de effectuar-se uma organisação federal perfeita mediante a adopção de uma constituição e a eleição de uma legislatura nacional. Em consequencia disto Nicaragua e Honduras renunciaram ao pacto e cada um destes estados reassumiu sua condição de nação independente e soberano. Depois disto o Ministro MERRY foi recebido pelas Republicas de Nicaragua e o Salvador, e o Ministro HUNTER a sua vez apresentou suas credenciaes ao Governo de Honduras, volvendo assim a establecer-se o antigo systema de representação diplomatica dos Estados Unidos na America Central, de conformidade com o que dispõem as nossas leis. Um representante de Nicaragua tem sido acreditado ao Governo dos Estados Unidos.

NEGOCIOS DE NICARAGUA.

Uma insurreição chefiada pelo General REYES, deu-se em Bluefields no mez de Fevereiro proximo passado e por algum tempo esteve em posse effectiva do territorio de Mosquito. Com toda diligencia foi enviado áquelle porto o navio de guerra *Detroit* para proteger os interesses americanos. Depois de poucas semanas o Governo de REYES renunciou a lucta e a supremacia de Nicaragua foi reestabelecida. Durante o interregno as auctoridades que exerciam o poder administrativo cobraram dos commerciantes americanos alguns direitos que deviam conforme ás leis de Nicaragua.

Ao reestabelecer-se o Governo legitimo, exigiu-se de novo o pagamento dos ditos direitos. D'aqui originou-se uma controversia sobre a validez do pagamento primitivo feito ao Governo *de facto* do territorio. Em Abril proximo passado se effectuou um arranjo entre o Ministro dos Estados Unidos e o Secretario de Relações Exteriores de Nicaragua mediante o qual uma quantia no dobro da cobrada foi depositada em mãos do consul britannico até que se chegar a uma solução da questão por meio de um arranjo directo entre os Governos dos Estados Unidos e o Nicaragua. A controversia ainda está pendente.

O CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

Como a Commissão do Canal de Nicaragua, que tinha estado occupada em examinar e estudar o caminho para um canal interoceanico atravez daquelle paiz, terminou seus trabalhos e apresentou seu relatorio, foi dissolvida no dia 31 de Maio e no dia 10 de Junho uma nova commissão, conhecida com o nome de Commissão de Canal pelo Isthmo, foi organizada de conformidade com o que dispõe a lei de 3 de Março de 1899. O objecto desta commissão é examinar o Isthmo americano com o fim de determinar qual é o caminho por onde um canal é mais praticavel atravez do Isthmo, fazendo um calculo do que provavelmente custaria e resolvendo outros pontos essenciaes.

Esta commissão, sob a presidencia do Contra-Almirante JOHN G. WALKER, da Marinha dos Estados Unidos (retirado), entrou prompta-

mente nos seus trabalhos e está actualmente fazendo estudos em Nicaragua no caminho do Canal de Panama e em Darien desde o Atlantico, na vizinhança do Rio Atrato, até a Bahia de Panama no Pacifico. * * *

Não se pode chamar com demasiada frequencia nem com demasiada insistencia a attenção do Congresso para a grande importancia desta obra. Na mensagem que dirigi-vós no anno passado exprimi meu modo de ver sobre a necessidade de construir um canal que una os dous grandes oceanos, assumpto que de novo submetto á vossa consideração. As razões que dei-vós então em favor de uma resolução immediata são hoje mais poderosas ainda.

A ACÇÃO GENEROSA DO CHILE.

A generosa ajuda que ó Governo do Chile offereceu ao navio de guerra *Newark* quando se achava em perigo em aguas chilenas foi um incidente muito satisfactorio em nossas relações com aquelle paiz; e não é sómente neste caso que o Chile tem mostrado seus sentimentos amistosos respeito a nos, pois tem adherido ao convenio celebrado para o estabelecimento da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas, da qual formam parte todas as nações do Continente.

A troca das ratificações do convenio para o restabelecimento da Commissão de Reclamações entre o Chile e os Estados Unidos e para adjudicar as reclamações que teem sido apresentadas até hoje, mas sobre as quaes nada se resolveu durante a existencia da commissão anterior, tem sido deferido porque é necessario que o Senado chileno resolva sobre as modificações feitas pelo dos Estados Unidos ao ratificar o tratado. Este requisito se levará a effeito antes de pouco tempo.

INCREMENTO DE NOSSAS RELAÇÕES COM O MEXICO.

Este anno tem sido notavel pelo constante augmento de nossas relações com o Mexico e pela magnitude do intercambio entre as duas nações para proveito mutuo. Este Governo não tem omittido opportunidade alguma para mostrar seus desejos de fazer mais fortes e duradouros os laços de amizade que felizmente teem unido ambas as Republicas por tão largo tempo.

Depois de que o Mexico declarou terminado no dia 20 de Janeiro de 1899 o tratado de extradição celebrado no dia 11 de Dezembro de 1861, foi firmado no dia 22 de Fevereiro do anno corrente um novo tratado mais de accordo com as necessidades reconhecidas de ambos os paizes, e as ratificações do mesmo foram trocadas na cidade de Mexico no dia 22 de Abril proximo passado. Até a data o dito tratado tem dado resultados efficazes e satisfactorios. Um caso que se apresentou ultimamente poz a prova a applicação do Artigo IV, no qual se estipula que nenhuma das partes contractantes está obrigada a entregar os seus proprios cidadãos, mas que o Poder Executivo de cada uma tem direito para resolver o que estimar de justiça sobre o particular.

Depois de madura consideração, ordenei a extradição de um cidadão dos Estados Unidos, accusado no Mexico de homicidio, por creer que servia desta maneira os interesses da justiça. Actos semelhantes por parte do Governo mexicano, sempre que se apresentar uma occasião para executal-os, não sómente tenderão a satisfazer o desejo que ambos os paizes teem de que graves crimes não fiquem impunes, mas tambem contribuirão a supprimir as desordens na fronteira dos dous paizes. No novo tratado se estipula que nenhum dos dous Governos deverá ser auctorisado para castigar crimes commettidos exclusivamente no territorio do outro. Isto impedirá que no futuro se suscitem controversias desagradaveis como as que teem occorrido no passado devidas a que o Mexico se creia com o direito de julgar e castigar cidadãos dos Estados Unidos por delictos commettidos dentro da jurisdicção deste paiz.

A Commissão Internacional de Limite Fluvial, organisada de accordo com o convenio de 1° de Março de 1889, para o arranjo das questões relacionadas com a fronteira do Rio Grande, não tem terminado seus trabalhos ainda. Mediante um convenio firmado no dia 2 de Dezembro de 1898 e trocado e promulgado em Fevereiro proximo passado se prorogou o prazo deste convenio por um anno, isto é, até o dia 24 de Dezembro do anno corrente.

Com motivo da collocação da pedra angular do edificio do Governo dos Estados Unidos em Chicago, se dirigiu um convite no mez de Outubro proximo passado ao Presidente do Mexico para que visitasse a dita cidade, convite que foi cordialmente aceito por elle, depois de haver obtido a permissão do Congresso mexicano, mas a enfermidade de um membro de sua familia impediu que estivesse presente n'aquella occasião. O Ministro de Relações Exteriores, comtudo, veio como representante pessoal do Presidente Diaz, e em seu elevado caracter recebeu as attenções que lhe eram devidas.

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CUBA.

A auctoridade de Hespanha retirou-se da ilha de Cuba no dia 1° de Janeiro, e ao restabelecer-se a paz, nos encontrámos com o territorio que a dita potencia tinha renunciado, em nosso poder, á maneira de obrigação fiduciaria respeito aos habitantes. Tinhamos que manter, sob a direcção do Executivo, o systema de Governo mais adequado á conservação da ordem publica e ao restabelecimento das condições productoras que a paz traz, perturbadas por largo tempo por causa da instabilidade e a desordem que prevaleceram durante a maior parte das ultimas tres decadas. Deviamos estabelecer a marcha tranquilla dos negocios interiores da ilha mediante o qual sómente é possivel realizar o alto proposito exposto na resolução conjuncta adoptada pelo Congresso no dia 19 de Abril de 1898, na qual os Estados Unidos declaram que não abrigam intenção ou desejo algum de exercer soberania, jurisdicção ou dominio em Cuba, excepto para o effeito de sua pacificação,

e affirmam que quando isto se tenha levado a cabo, deixarão o governo e dominio da ilha a seus habitantes. A promessa contida na dita resolução encerra um compromisso de honor e deve ser cumprida religiosamente.

Creio que se tem feito muito progresso neste sentido. Todas as medidas administrativas que se teem dictado em Cuba teem tendido a adaptal-a á sua condição de povo regenerado, estabelecendo a supremacia da lei e da justiça, pondo o machinismo administrativo nas mãos dos habitantes quando isto tem sido practicavel, introduzindo reformas sanitarias que se necessitavam, extendendo a educação, fomentando a industria e o commercio, inculcando a moral publica, e, em uma palavra, dando todos os passos racionaes para ajudar os cubanos a elevarem-se a esse nivel de respeito proprio e de confiança em sua unificação que fazem um povo culto, digno de um governo autonomo e o habilitam cumprir com seus deveres para com as outras nações.

Este paiz tem assumido perante o mundo uma grave responsabilidade em quanto ao governo futuro da ilha de Cuba. Temos aceito uma obrigação cujo cumprimento requer a maior integridade e o mais alto criterio. A nova Cuba que tem de levantar-se das cinzas do passado deve estar ligada a nós por fortes e estreitos laços si seu bem estar ha de ser duradouro. Qualquer que seja a natureza desses laços, os destinos de Cuba estão de certo modo ligados irrevogavelmente aos nossos, mas até onde alcançará esta união o porvir o resolverá á medida que se desenvolvem os acontecimentos. Seja o que for, devemos fazer que Cuba livre seja uma realidade, não simplesmente um nome, uma entidade perfeita, não uma experiencia destinada a fracassar. * * * O maior beneficio que pode vir a Cuba é o restabelecimento de sua prosperidade agricola e industrial que dará emprego aos que o não teem e contribuirá á restauração da paz. Esta é sua mais ingente e immediata necessidade.

No dia 19 de Agosto proximo passado se expediu uma ordem para que se fizesse o recenseamento da ilha, o qual devia estar terminado a 30 de Novembro. Segundo o tratado de paz, os hespanhóes residentes na ilha podem, até o dia 11 de Abril de 1900, resolver si desejam permanecer como cidadãos de Hespanha ou de Cuba. Até então não se pode decidir definitivamente quem teem direito a participar na organisação do Governo de Cuba. Quando este se verifique o resultado do recenseamento será exposto em quadros synopticos e procederemos a fazer eleições que confiem o governo municipal da ilha aos eleitos do povo. A experiencia que com isto se obtenha será muito valiosa para organisar mais tarde uma representação representativa do povo que formule uma constituição e estabeleça um systema de governo independente para a ilha. No intermedio, e emquanto que exercermos dominio sobre a ilha, os productos de Cuba devem entrar nos Estados Unidos nas mesmas condições e pagando os mesmos direitos que os das outras Antilhas, de accordo com os tratados de reciprocidade que se celebrarão.

Da renda produzida pela ilha de Cuba durante os seis mezes que terminâram no dia 30 de Junho de 1899 se gastaram $1,712,014.20 em medidas sanitarias, $293,881.70 em obras de beneficencia e hospitaes, e $88,944.03 em soccorrer aos desvalidos.

RELAÇÕES COM A HESPANHA.

Depois de trocadas as ratificações do tratado de paz cada Governo acreditou um representante perante o outro. A Hespanha enviou a Washington o Duque D'ARCOS, distincto diplomata que antes tinha representado sua patria no Mexico, e este paiz enviou a Madrid o Honrado BELLAMY STORER, que era Ministro em Bruxellas. Em seguida, se nomeâram os consules respectivos e desta maneira se restabeleceram por completo as relações interrompidas pela guerra. Além de sua representação consular nos Estados Unidos, o Governo hespanhol tem nomeado consules para Cuba, que teem sido reconhecidos provisoriamente durante a administração militar na ilha.

De accordo com ó tratado de paz, teem-se estabelecido relações judiciaes entre os tribunaes de Cuba e Porto Rico e os da Hespanha. A Hespanha tem posto e continúa pondo em liberdade os prisioneiros politicos cubanos de accordo com o disposto no Artigo VI do mesmo tratado. Prompto se encetarão negociações com o fim de definir as relações convencionaes entre os dous paizes, interrompidas pela guerra. Abrigo a esperança de que as ditas negociações abrangerão um convenio favoravel de reciprocidade commercial, de conformidade com o disposto nas secções 3ª e 4ª da lei de tarifa vigente. * * *

TRATADO ANGLO-VENEZUELANO.

A Commissão Internacional de Arbitramento, nomeada de conformidade com o tratado anglo-venezuelano de 1897, emittiu seu laudo no dia 3 de Outubro ultimo, fixando a linha divisoria entre Venezuela e a Guyana ingleza, e desta maneira pondo termo a uma controversia que tem existido durante a maior parte do seculo. Ainda que o laudo, que foi unanime, não satisfaz as pretenções extremas de nenhuma das partes, dá á Grã Bretanha uma grande parte do territorio interior em disputa, e a Venezuela toda a bocca do Orinoco, incluindo Punta Barima e o littoral sobre o Mar das Antilhas por alguma distancia para leste. O laudo parece ser satisfactorio a ambas as partes.

Venezuela tem sido theatro de outra revolução. Depois de uma batalha sanguinaria, em que soffreram grandes perdas, os insurrectos, sob o commando do General CASTRO, se reorganisaram nas montanhas e avançaram na direcção da capital. Como a maior parte do exercito declarou-se em favor do movimento revolucionario, o Presidente ANDRADE abandonou Caracas, e o General CASTRO estabeleceu alli um governo provisorio, com o qual nosso Ministro e os representantes de outras nações entraram em relações diplomaticas no dia 20 de Novembro proximo passado.

UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

O interesse que as nações que formam a União Internacional de Republicas Americanas tomam nos trabalhos de sua Secretaria se evidencia pelo facto de que agora, pela primeira vez desde sua fundação em 1890, todas as Republicas da America Central e do Sul estão representadas nella.

A recommendação unanime da Conferencia Internacional Americana relativa ao estabelecimento da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas, diz que esta União deverá continuar em vigor durante o prazo de dez annos contados desde a data de sua organisação, e que nenhum paiz que entrar como membro da dita União deixará de sel-o emquanto que não tenha decorrido esse periodo de dez annos, e a menos que doze mezes antes de que vença-se esse prazo, uma maioria dos membros da União tenha dado aviso official ao Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos de seus desejos de terminar a União ao concluir o primeiro periodo, aquella continuará e será mantida por outro periodo de dez annos, e assim successivamente, sob as mesmas condições por periodos successivos de dez annos cada um.

O periodo para a dita notificação terminou no dia 14 de Julho de 1899 sem que nenhum dos membros da União houvesse dado aviso de que queria retirar-se della. Portanto, sua existencia durante dez annos mais está assegurada. Em vista deste facto e das numerosas questões de interesse geral para todas as Republicas americanas, algumas das quaes foram tomadas em consideração pela passada Conferencia Internacional Americana, mas não resolvidas definitivamente, e outras que têm adquirido desde aquella epocha maior importancia, parece conveniente que todas as Republicas que formam a União sejam convidadas a celebrar outra conferencia antes de muito tempo na capital de alguma dellas, com excepção dos Estados Unidos, que já tiveram a honra de ver em Washington a ultima conferencia.

O caracter puramente internacional dos trabalhos da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas e a importancia que a elles se dá manifestam-se de uma maneira emphatica com o interesse que os Governos da America latina e seus representantes diplomaticos nesta capital manifestam nos mesmos, e com os esforços que fazem para estender a esphera de acção da mencionada Secretaria, para promover por meio della as relações commerciaes e para fortalecer os laços de amizade e confiança que unem as nações deste continente.

AS FILIPPINAS.

Depois de dar um resumo comprehensivo da revolta nas Filippinas e dos esforços feitos pelas tropas e officiaes dos Estados Unidos para supprimil-a, o Presidente diz:

O Congresso dos Estados Unidos resolverá qual ha de ser o futuro governo das Filippinas. Poucas vezes nos temos visto com maior

responsabilidade. Si as aceitamos com um espirito digno de nossa raça e de nossas tradições, se nós offerecem grandes opportunidades. As ilhas estão sob a protecção de nossa bandeira. São nossas por todo titulo de equidade e justiça. Não devem ser abandonadas. Si as abandonassemos, as entregariamos á anarchia e finalmente á barbaria. As atirariamos como maçã de discordia entre potencias rivaes, nenhuma das quaes permittiria a outra que as occupasse sem opposição. Seus fertis valles e planicies seriam theatro de eternas e sanguinarias luctas. A chegada da frota de DEWEY a Manilha, em vez de haver sido, como esperamos, a aurora de um novo dia de liberdade e progresso, teria sido o principio de uma era de miseria e violencia, peior que quantas se teem visto no obscuro passado d'aquella terra desgraçada.

Tem-se suggerido a idea de que renunciemos o dominio das ilhas e que, ao fazel-as independentes, mantenhamos sobre ellas um protectorado. Estou seguro de que não encontrareis digna de vossa attenção essa proposta. Um tal arranjo envolveria desde o principio uma falta cruel de boa fé, posto que deixaria a maioria leal e pacifica do povo, que nada deseja tanto como aceitar nossa auctoridade, á mercê de uma minoria de insurrectos armados. Nos faria responsaveis dos actos dos insurgentes sem que tivessemos o poder de impedil-os. Imporia sobre nos a obrigação de protegel-os, uns contra os outros, e de defendel-os contra as nações estrangeiras que com elles quizessem provocar um conflicto. Emfim, privaria o Congresso dos Estados Unidos da faculdade de declarar a guerra e investiria com esta tremenda prerogativa ao chefe tagalo que tivesse em suas mãos o poder.

Não creio opportuno recommendar agora uma forma de governo especial e definitiva para aquellas ilhas. Quando se tiver restabelecido a paz, o Congresso se verá na obrigação de estabelecer um systema administrativo que garanta a liberdade, a ordem e a paz nas Filippinas. A insurreição existe todavia e quando tiver terminado haverá mister de novos relatorios relativamente ás condições existentes, antes de estabelecer um governo civil permanente. O relatorio completo da Commissão, que na actualidade se está preparando, conterá noticias e indicações valiosas para o Congresso, e os remittirei tão logo que esteja terminado. Emquanto dure a insurreição o braço militar deve necessariamente exercer auctoridade absoluta. Mas não ha razão para que não se trate de tempo em tempo e á medida que o territorio é dominado por nossas tropas, de estabelecer governos essencialmente populares em sua forma. Com este objecto em vista estou pensando si não seria conveniente volver a mandar a Commissão, afim de que ajude as auctoridades a levar a cabo em todas as ilhas o trabalho indicado. Creio que a obra de reconstrucção deve começar com o estabelecimento de governos municipaes e depois provinciaes, deixando para o fim o governo central.

Até que o Congresso tiver manifestado sua vontade respeito áquellas ilhas, continuarei fazendo uso das faculdades que me conferem a Constituição e as leis afim de manter a soberania dos Estados Unidos

naquella remota terra, assim como em todos os outros lugares onde legalmente se levanta o nosso pavilhão. Porei á disposição do Exercito e da Armada todos os meios que a generosidade do Congresso e do povo tem facilitado para suffocar esta insurreição destructora e injustificavel.

Não se economisará esforço nenhum para reconstruir o que a guerra e os longos annos de máo governo tem destruido. Não esperaremos que a lucta tenha concluido para dar principio a esta obra benefica. Continuaremos, como temos começado, abrindo escolas e igrejas, fazendo funccionar os tribunaes de justiça, fomentando a industria, a agricultura e o commercio, e fazendo que aquelle povo comprehenda que o que desejamos não é dominal-o, mas fazel-o livre, que vamos em busca de seu bemestar e não de vantagens para nós mesmos. Sempre que a nossa bandeira tem-se levantado sobre algum povo, tem sido para sua felicidade.

LEGISLAÇÃO PARA PORTO RICO.

Já é tempo que se adopte alguma forma de governo temporal para Porto Rico.

O systema de jurisprudencia civil existente na ilha é tão moderno como scientifico, emquanto se relaciona aos negocios interiores, ao trafico, á producção e aos direitos sociaes e individuaes em geral. Exigem-se poucas ou nenhumas mudanças no governo das cidades, de sorte que provavelmente pouco ou nada se necessita dispor tocante a assumptos locaes ou que affectem direitos particulares, mas tratando-se da administração publica e das relações da ilha com o Governo Federal, ha muitas materias que exigem attençao immediata. A mesma necessidade existe de que se dictem leis referentes ao estabelecimento da jurisdicção federal e de tribunaes federaes que os manifestei existia no caso de Hawaii.

Além da administração de justiça, existe o assumpto de terras publicas; o do dominio e do melhoramento dos rios e portos; o do dominio das aguas não navegaveis, que, segundo as leis hespanholas, pertenciam á corôa de Hespanha, e que pelo tratado teem passado aõ dominio dos Estados Unidos; o da immigração; o da introducção de trabalhadores sob contracto; o da maneira de estabelecer e arrecadar os impostos interiores; o da applicação das leis de navegação; o de regular o systema monetario; o do estabelecimento de estações e rutas postaes; o dos direitos que devem pagar as mercadorias importadas na ilha dos Estados Unidos; o do estabelecimento de portos; o de patentes e direitos de auctor. Estes e outros assumptos que são do exclusivo dominio do Congresso requerem estudo cuidadoso e prompta resolução.

Deve-se recordar que desde que Porto Rico nos foi cedido não conta já com os mercados principaes de que dispoz por largo tempo, e que nossa tarifa grava seus productos como na epocha em que era colonia hespanhola. Os mercados de Hespanha estão cerrados para seus productos, excepto mediante condições a que se encontra sujeito o commercio de todas as nações. A ilha de Cuba, que antes comprava seu

gado e seu tabaco, agora impõe sobre estes productos os mesmos direitos que pagam quando chegam de outros paizes. Tem perdido suas livres relações commerciaes com a Hespanha e Cuba sem compensação alguma pelo que toca a nossos mercados. Seu café era pouco conhecido por nosso povo, que não o usava, e em consequencia a demanda não existia. Os mercados dos Estados Unidos devem estar abertos a seus productos. Nosso dever é abolir toda a classe de direitos aduaneiros entre os Estados Unidos e Porto Rico e fazer que os productos da ilha tenham accesso aos nossos mercados.

Como resultado da tempestade que devastou Porto Rico a 8 de Agosto de 1899, mais de 100,000 pessoas se viram reduzidas a mais completa miseria. O Ministerio da Guerra appellou ao povo dos Estados Unidos, que respondeu de uma maneira prompta e generosa. O Ministerio da Guerra gastou para alliviar os necessitados a somma de $392,342.63, sem incluir os gastos de transporte.

É de desejar que o governo militar que agora existe na ilha seja substituido por uma administração inteiramente civil. Pelo momento recommendo ao Congresso que dicte uma lei para a organisação de um governo provisorio, e a qual autorise o Presidente a nomear, com a approvação do Senado, um governador e outros empregados que se necessitem para a administração geral da ilha, ao mesmo tempo que estabeleça um conselho legislativo que emitta as disposições necessarias no tocante a assumptos locaes que não se relacionem com os federaes. O dito conselho será composto em parte de porto ricanos e em parte de cidadãos dos Estados Unidos. Será nomeado pelo Presidente, sendo sujeita a nomeação á ratificação do Senado. As resoluções do dito conselho devem ser submettidas ao Congresso ou ao Presidente para sua approvação antes de que tenham força de lei. Recommendo que nas municipalidades e outras subdivisões locaes se introduza desde logo o systema de *self-government* para que os cidadãos cultos da ilha tomem participação no governo e aprendam a conhecer por experiencia quaes são os deveres e as necessidades de um povo autonomo. * * *

O que principalmente requer este povo, como todos os outros, é educação. A escola livre é a que forma cidadãos. Ao introduzir novos methodos de educação, comtudo, deve-se ter cuidado de não operar mudanças demasiado bruscas e ao mesmo tempo se devem tomar em consideração as tradições e as ideas dos habitantes. Um systema de educação racional que se adapte ás condições existentes e que tenda a levantar o nivel moral dos habitantes e a fomentar seu progresso industrial fará que estas novas possessões aspirem a desfructar dos beneficios que trae comsigo a liberdade politica.

FALLECIMENTO DO VICE-PRESIDENTE DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Na manhã do dia 21 de Novembro do anno corrente falleceu na cidade de Paterson, Estado de Nova Jersey, o Sr. GARRET A. HOBART, Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos. Com este motivo o Presidente dos Estados Unidos dirigiu a seguinte

PROCLAMAÇÃO.

Ao Povo dos Estados Unidos:

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos, falleceu em sua residencia de Paterson, Nova Jersey, ás oito e meia da manhã do dia de hoje. Com sua morte a nação perde um dos seus filhos mais illustres e um dos seus mais leaes servidores. Tanto como homem de negocios no Estado onde nasceu como no seu caracter de membro da legislatura do mesmo, deu mostra da sua honradez, de sua grande intelligencia e de sua illustração. Em sua curta carreira de Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos e Presidente do Senado demonstrou que era um estadista habil e probo.

No mundo dos negocios, poucos o igualavam entre seus contemporaneos. Como particular era nobre e generoso. Por largo tempo será recordado como um homem puro e agradavel, cujo caracter suave attrahia todos os corações, ao mesmo tempo que a elevação de suas miras, sua integridade e sua abnegação no serviço publico lhe mereceram o respeito e a admiração de todos.

Como uma mostra do pezar que sente todo o paiz, ordeno que no dia das ceremonias funeraes as Repartições publicas dos Estados Unidos permaneçam cerradas, que em todos os postos e estações do Exercito e a Armada se arvore a meia hasta a bandeira nacional, e que os representantes dos Estados Unidos em paizes estrangeiros offereçam adequado tributo á memoria do illustre finado por um periodo de trinta dias.

Em fé do qual firmo a presente e lhe faço affixar os sellos dos Estados Unidos.

Dada na cidade de Washington, hoje, o dia 21 de Novembro do anno do nosso Senhor mil oitocentos e noventa e nove e o cento vigesimo-quarto da independencia dos Estados Unidos.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Assignada:

JOHN HAY,
Secretario de Estado.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

LINHA DE VAPORES PARA O RIO DE JANEIRO.

Em uma reunião do Club de Manufactureiros celebrada em Philadelphia no dia 15 de Novembro, se tratou de estabelecer uma linha de vapores entre aquelle porto e Rio de Janeiro. O Capitão CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, representante do Brazil no Congresso Internacional, pronunciou um discurso em favor do projecto. Declarou que o Presidente, o Congresso e o povo do Brazil estavam desejosos de fazer mais estreitas as relaçoes entre o Brazil e os Estados Unidos, porque creiam que isto seria benefico para ambas as nações. Referindo-se á grande quantidade de café brazileiro que se importa nos Estados Unidos, exprimiu-se assim:

"É impossivel acreditar que neste enorme trafico não se emprega um só navio americano. Si este commercio ha de continuar e ir em augmento, deve-se fazer alguma cousa immediatamente afim de collocar os Estados Unidos nas condições que lhes correspondem. Necessitam-se linhas de transporte, facilidades bancarias e maior vigilancia por parte dos commerciantes dos Estados Unidos. Vossa exportação não é menos importante que vossa importação. Não tendes fomentado aquelle ramo do vosso commercio com o Brazil, ainda que só se necessita um olhar para este para ver que grandes quantidades de vossos productos poderiam ser enviadas para o Brazil, si houvesse embarcações para transportal-as e existisse um melhor systema de cambio internacional. O Brazil pode consumir grandes quantidades de vossos productos, e entre elles posso mencionar a farinha, os oleos mineraes, o ferro, o aço, o carvão, os tecidos, machinas e artefactos em geral."

Outros que fallaram sobre o mesmo assumpto foram os Senhores JOHN G. GORDAN, ALBERT LUCAS, e WILLIAM C. BULLITT. Como cidadãos de Philadelphia, manifestaram-se em favor do prompto estabelecimento da citada linha de vapores, e de que a companhia tivesse sua residencia na dita cidade e fizesse suas operações com capital dos Estados Unidos. Teem-se nomeado commissões para que estudem o projecto e tratem dos meios de leval-o ao cabo.

FACTURAS DE MERCADORIAS DO MEXICO.

No dia 18 de Novembro de 1899, o Secretario da Fazenda dirigiu ao Secretario de Estado a seguinte communicação que se refere ás mercadorias importadas do Mexico afim de que sejam embarcadas para a Europa: * * * "Devo manifestar que nenhuma mercadoria proveniente do Mexico pode ser transportada de transito atravez dos Estados Unidos. Os artigos livres de direitos devem ser declarados para consumo ao chegarem á fronteira. Os artigos que pagam direitos e

que chegam do Mexico para serem exportados podem ser declarados para serem depositados em armazens e para sua transportação para o porto de embarque, onde deverão ser novamente declarados para serem outra vez depositados em armazens e para a exportação. Mas em todo caso deve-se apresentar uma factura consular." * * *

EXPORTAÇÃO DE RELOGIOS DE PAREDE E DE BOLSO, E DE JOIAS.

A publicação denominada "Jewelers' Circular," correspondente a 22 de Novembro de 1899, chama a attenção para a crescente popularidade nos mercados estrangeiros dos relogios de parede e de bolso, assim como das joias que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos. Isto é bem demonstrado nas tabellas recentemente publicadas, nas quaes se expõe a quantidade destes artigos que tem sido exportada nos ultimos dous annos.

Durante o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, a exportação total de relogios de toda a classe ascendeu a $1,043,621, contra um total de $953,557 no exercicio anterior. Relogios de bolso no valor de $819,810 foram exportados durante o anno economico de 1899, o qual mostra um augmento de $47,898 sobre o anno precedente. A exportação de joias ascendeu a $729,194 em 1899, contra $555,719 em 1898. Quanto a outros effectos de ouro e prata houve tambem um augmento, pois de $192,061 em 1898, ascendeu a $233,962 em 1899. Ha muito poucos annos que os Estados Unidos importavam grande quantidade de relogios de todas as classes e de joias.

UM ARADO AUTOMOVEL.

O Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventor da espingarda que leva seu nome, acaba de inventar um arado automovel. Esta machina é construida como um automovel ordinario, com arados de disco arranjados de tal maneira que fazem o trabalho do instrumento que agora se usa. A machina pode ser funccionada por uma só pessoa e se pretende que fará tanto trabalho como oito homens e doze cavallos. Como força motriz se pode usar gasolina ou petroleo. A machina pode ser usada tambem para fazer funccionar um debulhador ou uma machina de descascar o milho e para outros fins. Ha outra machina para uso nas plantações de algodão, e que servirá para entresachar os plantios quando as plantas começam a crescer.

REFRIGERADORES FLUCTUANTES.

O General T. H. STANTON, Thesoureiro-Geral do Exercito dos Estados Unidos, faz menção no seu relatorio dos navios refrigeradores, e diz que deram resultados muito satisfactorios em quanto a supprir de carne fresca os navios de guerra em Manilha. Os tres navios refrigeradores que se empregam actualmente no serviço dos Estados Unidos não

sómente podem supprir ás necessidades da armada, mas tambem podem levar grandes quantidades de viveres para o exercito que se acha em campanha nas Filippinas.

CONDIÇÃO DAS PRINCIPAES COLHEITAS.

O relatorio da Repartição de Estatistica do Ministerio da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos correspondente ao mez de Novembro completa practicamente o trabalho do anno e mostra que 1899 é provavelmente o anno em que se tem produzido maior quantidade de milho neste paiz. As estatisticas mostram uma producção média de 25.2 alqueires por geira, contra 24.8 alqueires, que foi a quantidade primeiramente calculada em Novembro de 1898. A média em quanto á qualidade é de 87.2 por cento, contra 82.7 por cento em Novembro de 1898. Calcula-se que 5.9 por cento da colheita de milho de 1898 estava em poder dos agricultores no dia 1° de Novembro de 1899, emquanto que a quantidade da colheita de 1897 que aquelles tinham em suas mãos no dia 1° de Novembro de 1898 ascendia a 7.25 por cento.

Calcula-se que a producção de milho por geira nos principaes estados cultivadores de milho é como segue: Indiana, 37 alqueires; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvania, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, e Missouri, 25. A extensão do terreno em cultivo não tem sido determinada. Tomando como base o numero de geiras semeadas de milho no anno passado, segundo dados officiaes, a producção seria de 1,958,588,881 alqueires. O estatistico HYDE, porém, crê que a extensão de terreno semeado de milho em 1899 terá varios milhões de geiras mais que a de 1898. A colheita total de 1898 foi de 1,924,184,660 alqueires, emquanto que a de 1896 foi de 2,283,875,000. Crê-se que a producção em 1899 excederá por muito á de 1896 e que será de cerca de 2,400,000,000 alqueires.

A producção média de trigo mourisco é de 17.2 alqueires por geira, contra 17.3 em Novembro de 1898, e 16.5, a média no mesmo mez durante dez annos. A média em quanto á qualidade é de 88.4 por cento, contra 85.2 por cento em 1898. Emquanto que a producção por geira deste grão é um pouco maior que a do anno anterior, a extensão de terreno cultivada foi menos que a metade. Calcula-se que a colheita será de 5,897,000 alqueires, contra 11,722,000 em 1898.

A producção média de batatas é calculada em 88.7 alqueires por geira, o qual é um grande augmento da média durante os ultimos dez annos. A média no dia 1° de Novembro de 1898 era de 75.2 alqueires, que foi tambem a média durante dez annos. A qualidade foi de 91.4, contra 84.7 em Novembro de 1898. Calculada sobre uma extensão de 2,534,577 geiras, a producção de batatas será de 224,816,979 alqueires.

A producção média de feno será, segundo se calcula, de 1.35 toneladas por geira, contra 1.55 toneladas em 1898, e contra 1.27 toneladas, que foi a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Calcula-se que a producção de

feno será de 57,382,820 toneladas, contra 66,377,000 toneladas em 1898, o qual mostra uma diminuição de 9,000,000 toneladas.

Em quanto ás fructas, a producção, calculando as colheitas inteiras, foi como segue: Maçãs, 47; peras, 47, e uvas, 68.

Segundo as indicações actuaes, a producção de canna de assucar será uma quarta parte menor que em 1898. Na Louisiana, que é o Estado que mais produz, a diminuição tem sido de 30 por cento, e em outros Estados tem chegado a 15 e até 30 por cento.

O facto de que os calculos preliminares officiaes relativos á colheita de algodão teem sido inferiores á quantidade produzida, tem sido devido em cada caso á falta de conhecimento da rapidez com que augmenta a extensão de terreno dedicado a este cultivo. É por isto que quando a grande colheita do anno passado demonstrou que a dita extensão tinha augmentado mais além dos calculos officiaes e commerciaes, resolveu-se fazer uma investigação especial a respeito da condição do referido cultivo durante este anno. A area de cultivo no anno passado tinha cerca de 25,000,000 geiras, e este anno é de cerca de 23,500,000 geiras, ainda que é provavel que os ultimos dados mostrarão que é todavia menor. Segundo a investigação que se tem feito, a producção média por geira é a mais pequena que se tem recordado em muitos annos, e ao calcular a colheita maxima em 9,500,000 fardos, tem-se querido tomar a cifra mais elevada possivel afim de evitar um modo de ver demasiado pessimista a respeito da situação. Na actualidade tudo indica que a colheita será de menos de 9,000,000 fardos.

Segundo o relatorio da Repartição de Estatisticas da Secretaria da Agricultura, correspondente a 15 de Dezembro de 1899, a producção de trigo dos Estados Unidos em 1899 é de 547,300,000, ou de 12.3 alqueires por geira. A producção de trigo de inverno é calculada em 291,700,000 alqueires e a de trigo de primavera em 255,600,000 alqueires. Os principaes Estados productores de trigo foram visitados por agentes especiaes da Repartição, os quaes teem feito uma investigação cuidadosa relativamente á extensão do terreno semeado. O numero de geiras semeadas de trigo de inverno é calculado em 30,150,000, ou 200,000 geiras mais do que as semeadas em 1898. Como todo o trigo não está ainda semeado na California e em alguns Estados do Sul, o calculo anterior está sujeito á modificação.

BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

"Indice do Commercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo e Classificado dos Membros da Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros dos Estados Unidos," é o titulo de uma obra que acaba de publicar a Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros de Philadelphia. O objecto deste manual é dar a conhecer aos commerciantes interessados nos productos

dos Estados Unidos, as principaes manufacturas deste paiz. O livro contem os nomes de todos os membros da Associação Nacional que fabricam artigos para a exportação, e está dividido em quatro partes, a saber: A parte primeira contem uma lista alphabetica dos membros e uma ligeira relação dos artigos que fabricam, assim como outras noticias uteis aos compradores. A parte segunda contem uma lista classificada dos membros. A parte terceira contem os endereços cabographicos registrados dos mesmos. A parte quarta contem os annuncios dos membros.

O primeiro volume publicado pela associação sahiu a luz em Janeiro de 1899, e a edição em inglez foi de 5,000 exemplares. O livro de que agora se trata está impresso em hespanhol, e é destinado a circular nos paizes onde se falla este idioma. Em principios de 1900 far-se-há outra edição em inglez e em francez para ser distribuida na Exposição de Paris. O indice não deixa nada que desejar e responde em todo aos fins para que foi publicado. A obra se distribue gratis e se podem obter exemplares na Secretaria das Republicas Americanas ou na da Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros de Philadelphia.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII. DÉCEMBRE 1899. No. 6.

PROCÈS-VERBAL DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE L'UNION INTERNATIONALE DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

Le Comité Exécutif de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines s'est réuni le 23 novembre 1899 dans la salle diplomatique du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

La réunion a eu lieu sur la demande de l'Honorable JONH HAY, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Président du Comité.

Les noms des membres qui assistaient à cette réunion étaient:

Señor Dr. Don MARTIN GARCIA MÉROU, Ministre de la République Argentine; Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministre de Costa-Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Directeur du Bureau des Républiques Américaines, était aussi présent.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ayant expliqué que le but de cette réunion était d'entendre la lecture du rapport annuel du Directeur, ce rapport fut lu par ce fonctionnaire. Il portait la date du 23 novembre 1899 et est annexé au procès-verbal.

Le rapport ayant été trouvé entièrement satisfaisant et approuvé à l'unanimité par les membres du Comité, ces derniers, sur la proposition de Mr. MÉROU, adressèrent leurs remerciements à Mr. ROCKHILL pour son intelligente et bonne direction du Bureau.

D'un commun accord, tous les membres présents furent d'avis que le Directeur pourrait exercer son propre jugement en ce qui concerne les recommandations du rapport. A la requête de ce fonctionnaire, il fut décidé que le système métrique serait employé comme étalon pour évaluer la monnaie, les poids et mesures dans les publications du Bureau.

Mr. MÉROU prit ensuite la parole et s'exprima ainsi:

"Malheureusement pour moi, cette réunion est la dernière à laquelle j'aurai l'honneur d'assister comme Membre du Comité Exécutif, parceque, comme vous le savez, je vais retourner dans ma patrie. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous remercier pour votre courtoisie et pour prendre congé de mes collègues du Comité Exécutif. Soyez persuadé que dans la nouvelle position que je vais occuper dans mon pays, je continuerai à m'intéresser au Bureau et au Comité Exécutif dont j'ai eu l'honneur d'être ur des membres. Je puis assurer Mr. ROCKHILL qu'il me trouvera toujours prêt à lui donner mon appui, et que je ferai valoir auprès de mon Gouvernement l'utilité et l'importance de cette Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines. Je suis sûr que le Bureau ne peut pas être en meilleures mains, et je suis confiant que dans l'avenir il continuera à se développer, ce qui aidera à resserrer les relations commerciales qui existent entre nos pays."

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a répondu en ces termes:

"Je suis sûr que nous regrettons tous infiniment d'être obligés de nous séparer de Mr. MÉROU, qui a été un membre si intelligent et si dévoué du Comité Exécutif. Néanmoins, quoique nous déplorions son départ, nous ne pouvons que le féliciter pour la distinction remarquable dont il vient d'être l'objet et les honneurs et responsabilités que son pays vient de lui décerner. Nous sommes particulièrement heureux d'apprendre que non seulement il ne cessera pas de prendre un vif intérêt dans le travail de ce Bureau, mais encore que dans la position élevée qu'il occupera désormais dans les affaires publiques de son pays natal, il sera capable de nous être à tous d'une très grande assistance et nous aidera à atteindre le but auquel nous consacrons tous nos efforts; d'étendre les relations commerciales entre tous les pays de ce continent et de resserrer les liens de sympathie et d'amitié qui existent maintenant si heureusement parmi eux."

Sur la proposition de Mr. CALVO, le Directeur du Bureau fut prié de transmettre à M. le Ministre MÉROU, à l'occasion de son départ, une copie des paroles d'adieu du Président du Comité.

Le Comité s'est alors ajourné.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *le 23 novembre 1899.*

RAPPORT ANNUEL DU DIRECTEUR DU BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

WASHINGTON, *le 23 novembre 1899.*

Le Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères, Président, et Messieurs les Membres du Comité Exécutif de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

MESSIEURS: Mr. FRÉDÉRIC EMORY, mon prédécesseur, vous soumettait, le 29 mars dernier, un rapport final des opérations de ce Bureau qui était un supplément à son rapport annuel du 17 décembre 1898 et

qui montrait les conditions dans lesquelles se trouvait le Bureau des Républiques Américaines un mois environ avant que j'en prisse la direction.

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter ci-dessous le compte-rendu des finances du Bureau pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899:

Recettes et dépenses pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899.

RECETTES.

Allocation annuelle des Etats-Unis, 1899			$36,000.00
Balance provenant des recettes de ventes, loyers, etc., 1er juillet 1898		$649.82	
Des allocations des Républiques Latines Américaines.	$5,762.78		
Des annonces	$27,005.98		
Des ventes de publications	2,622.45		
	29,628.43		
		35,391.21	
			36,041.03
Total des recettes			72,041.03

DÉPENSES.

Allocation annuelle, 1899	36,000.00	
Recettes provenant des ventes, loyers, etc	34,409.73	
		70,409.73
Balance au 1er juillet 1899		1,631.30

Bordereau détaillé des dépenses pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899.

	Provenant de l'allocation annuelle de 1899.	Provenant de recettes des ventes, loyers, etc.	Totaux.
Compensation	$30,783.08	$9,069.55	$39,852.63
Fournitures de bureaux	100.25	877.55	977.80
Loyer	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Bibliothèque	37.28	116.75	154.03
Affranchissement	46.11	915.65	961.76
Ameublement	22.65	149.75	172.40
Frais d'impression	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissions payées sur les contrats d'annonces faits antérieurement au 1er mars 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Dépenses diverses	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

D'après les chiffres précédents, il paraîtrait qu'une balance de $1,631.30 existait au crédit du Bureau le 1er juillet 1899, le commencement de la présente année fiscale. Ce compte, cependant, n'inclut pas le montant des sommes dues à l'Imprimeur Public pour travaux d'impression exécutés pour le Bureau pendant l'année fiscale alors terminée.

L'exposé suivant montre qu'au commencement de la présente année fiscale, une balance de $6,388.09 restait due à l'Imprimeur Public sur ses mémoires remis pendant l'année fiscale 1897-98:

Mémoire de l'Imprimeur Public pour l'année fiscale 1899.

Total des mémoires remis pour l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899		$34.870.61
Réduction faite pour travaux de composition et d'impression qui, d'après l'arrangement fait avec l'Imprimeur Public, sont portés au crédit du Bureau		2,982.48
Somme totale à payer		31,888.13
Paiements provenant de l'allocation annuelle, 1899	$3.279.25	
Paiements provenant des recettes des ventes, loyers, etc., pendant l'année fiscale, 1899	$14,707.28	
Paiements faits pendant l'année fiscale courante	7,513.51	
	22,220,79	
Total des paiements		25,500.04
Balance restant à payer		6,388.09

En prenant la Direction du Bureau j'ai trouvé qu'il fallait absolument que l'on réduisît ses dépenses, les revenus provenant des annonces diminuant constamment sans espoir de les voir augmenter.

Au moyen de divers changements faits dans l'impression du BULLETIN, sans toutefois porter atteinte à la qualité du travail exécuté dans l'Imprimerie ou diminuer la dimension de l'édition dont le nombre est resté à 11,000 copies, on peut estimer que cette publication peut être tirée pendant la présente année moyennant une somme ne dépassant pas $14,000.

La feuille d'émargement du Bureau, quoique réduite par moi de façon à réaliser un bénéfice net annuel de $2,300, se monte nonobstant à $34,500 par an; il serait possible de la réduire encore, avec l'approbation du Comité, afin de réaliser une économie sensible sans affecter toutefois le bon fonctionnement du Bureau.

L'impression des manuels n'occasionne aucune dépense considérable au Bureau et il faut espérer que ce travail pourra être continué sans interruption et rapidement.

On peut remarquer, si on examine les derniers comptes des dépenses du Bureau, que presque rien n'a été dépensé pour la Bibliothèque. Une somme considérable devrait être mise de côté pour l'achat de publications et de cartes géographiques concernant l'Amérique Centrale et l'Amérique du Sud, mais c'est une source de regrets profonds de constater que les dépenses courantes actuelles absorbent toutes les recettes.

J'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre ci-dessous une estimation des recettes et des dépenses pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1900:

Estimation des recettes:	
Allocation des Etats-Unis	$36,000.00
Allocation des Républiques Latino-Américaines	15,813.53
Annonces	3,000.00
Vente des publications	1,500.00
Total	56,313.53

Estimation des dépenses sur la base actuelle:		
Feuille d'émargement	$34,540.00	
Loyer	2,000.00	
Imprimerie	14,000.00	
Fournitures de bureaux et ameublement	1,000.00	
Affranchisement	900.00	
Dépenses diverses	2,000.00	
		$54,440 00
Balance		1,873.53

Dans le tableau ci-dessus, toutes les sommes dues comme allocations par les Républiques Latines Américaines ont été estimées, quoique cependant, pendant les dernières années, elles n'ont pas atteint ce chiffre par environ $3,500.

Etant données les dépenses actuelles, la déduction de cette somme ($3,500) laissera un déficit d'environ $1,700 pour l'année sans prendre en ligne de compte le montant des sommes dues à l'Imprimeur Public pour l'année dernière, et sans compter aussi quelques comptes arriérés contre le Bureau. Ce déficit peut, il faut l'espérer, être couvert au moyen des réductions suggérées ci-dessus et par le recouvrement de quelques sommes dues au Bureau pour annonces; car il y a encore des contrats montant à la somme de $3,858.74 qui sont restés impayés et dont une partie peut probablement être recouvrée par l'emploi d'agents qui ont déjà été engagés pour cela.

Mes prédécesseurs ont souvent exprimé leur conviction que les frais de publication du BULLETIN pourraient être couverts par les recettes provenant des annonces. Je ne crois pas que cet espoir puisse se réaliser. Sous le système actuellement employé par le Bureau, d'après les instructions de votre Comité et que j'approuve cordialement, les recettes provenant de cette source ne peuvent pas se monter à plus de $3,000 ou $4,000 par an; car il est un fait complètement avéré, et je le tiens de bonne source, que les annonces ne peuvent être obtenues que quand on les sollicite, moyen qui est sagement défendu dans ce Bureau. Après quelques temps les sommes qui proviendront de cette source peuvent devenir plus fortes, mais pour le moment on ne peut espérer aucune augmentation sensible. Les ventes des BULLETINS ne peuvent pas non plus être considérées comme une source de revenus, comme le démontrera l'exposé suivant:

Souscriptions pour le Bulletin Mensuel.

Année.	Annuelles.	Semestrielles.
1897	190	6
1898	160	12
1899	92	15

BULLETIN MENSUEL.

Le tirage du BULLETIN MENSUEL, comme il a été dit précédemment se monte à 11,000 exemplaires, dont 9,000 sont envoyés aux différents pays de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud et environ 1,300 distribués aux Etats-Unis et dans les autres parties du monde. Le tableau suivant montre le nombre de copies du BULLETIN envoyées dans les différentes contrées pendant le mois de novembre de l'année 1899:

Distribution du Bulletin pendant le mois de novembre 1899.

	Nombre.		Nombre.
République Argentine	444	Haïti	196
Autriche	2	Hollande	1
Les Açores	1	Honduras	207
Belgique	3	Jamaïque	60
Bolivie	56	Japan	1
Brésil	375	Mexique	5,101
Canada	171	Nouvelle-Zélande	1
Iles du Cap Vert	5	Nicaragua	97
Chili	162	Paraguay	27
Colombie	184	Pérou	133
Costa-Rica	98	Porto-Rico	200
Cuba	287	Salvador	25
République Dominicaine	140	Etats-Unis	1,307
Equateur	113	Uruguay	143
Egypte	1	Vénézuéla	546
Angleterre	5	Antilles (Petites Antilles)	38
France	7		
Allemagne	4	Total	10,636
Guatemala	495		

Des listes d'adresses de leurs pays respectifs ont été soumises de temps en temps aux Représentants Diplomatiques des Etats de l'Union Internationale à Washington avec prière de changer ou d'ajouter celles qu'ils jugeraient à propos, et d'indiquer aussi les moyens à employer pour donner une plus grande extension à la distribution des publications du Bureau dans leurs pays. Par ce moyen la circulation du BULLETIN dans l'Amérique Centrale et l'Amérique du Sud augmente constamment, ayant atteint pour le mois courant 865 copies de plus que pour le mois d'octobre. Si la franchise postale pour les publications du Bureau était étendue par quelques unes des Républiques Latines Américaines qui ne l'ont pas encore accordée, la distribution pourrait augmenter considérablement.

Il est à regretter qu'un si petit nombre de copies du BULLETIN soit distribué dans les Etats-Unis. Quoique notre peuple ait d'autres publications où il peut trouver des renseignements sur les Républiques Latines Américaines, on peut être certain qu'aucune publication paraissant dans ce pays peut donner un nombre de renseignements aussi récents et aussi exacts que ceux que contient le BULLETIN MENSUEL. Pour augmenter la distribution de cette publication, je partage entière-

ment la suggestion de mon prédécesseur, Mr. EMORY, que le Congrès des Etats-Unis soit prié d'allouer les fonds nécessaires pour 5,000 copies de plus par mois pour la nouvelle année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1901, pour être distribuées dans les Etats-Unis, afin de faire mieux connaître les ressources et les possibilités commerciales des Républiques Latines Américaines.

Pour rendre le BULLETIN plus utile, le Bureau s'est efforcé de se procurer toutes les publications périodiques paraissant en Europe ainsi que celles de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique du Nord. Actuellement, 1,725 publications périodiques, y compris les journaux quotidiens, sont reçues au Bureau, et tous les renseignements importants qu'elles contiennent sont traduits, compilés et classés pour être consultés. Les langues traduites aujourd'hui sont l'espagnol, le portugais, le français, l'allemand et l'italien. Des mesures ont été prises pour augmenter davantage les échanges du Bureau et on doit les plus sincères remerciements au Bureau des échanges internationaux de la "Smithsonian Institution" pour la gracieuseté avec laquelle il a bien voulu autoriser ses agents à l'étranger à agir pour ce Bureau. On espère que dans un avenir peu éloigné, presque tous les ouvrages littéraires et périodiques qui intéressent ce Bureau seront régulièrement reçus. La liste des publications périodiques qui parviennent actuellement au Bureau est publiée dans le BULLETIN et une collection spéciale permanente est faite des plus importantes. Quant à celles qui n'ont pas une valeur spéciale, elles sont envoyées à la Bibliothèque du Congrès pour sa Salle de Lecture.

Un autre moyen pour accroître les sources de renseignements du Bureau et afin que le BULLETIN puisse présenter une image digne de foi des conditions existantes dans tous les pays de l'Union Internationale, la coopération d'hommes éminents et dignes de confiance a été sollicitée dans les différentes capitales des Républiques Latines Américaines ou dans leurs principaux ports de mer, en les priant de vouloir bien consentir à agir en qualité de Membres Correspondants Honoraires de l'Union Internationale et de collaborer avec le Bureau en lui transmettant, toutes les fois que cela leur semblerait nécessaire, les renseignements qui pourraient étendre et compléter notre connaissance des conditions économiques et des ressources de leurs pays respectifs.

Les Représentants Diplomatiques des Républiques Latines Américaines à Washington ont tous, avec la plus grande courtoisie, prêté leur concours au Bureau en lui fournissant les noms des personnes qui pourraient consentir à agir comme membres correspondants, et on ne peut douter que leur collaboration aidera puissamment nos travaux.

L'impression du BULLETIN, grâce à l'intérêt qu'a pris l'Imprimeur du Gouvernement pour les travaux du Bureau, a été expédiée considérablement; aussi le BULLETIN peut il être distribué 10 jours environ après qu'il a été envoyé à l'Imprimerie, l'utilité du BULLETIN étant, pour cette raison, devenue considérablement plus grande.

MANUELS.

Au mois de Décembre 1898, époque à laquelle Mr. EMORY a soumis son dernier rapport, le Manuel du Venezuela se trouvait entre les mains de l'Imprimeur Public et a été depuis publié en deux parties: la 1ère en Anglais et la 2ème en espagnol. Etant donnée l'impossibilité de se procurer les dernières cartes géographiques comprenant la nouvelle division des Etats de la République, cette partie du travail a été omise comme il a été expliqué dans une note au commencement de cette publication.

Ce travail terminé, la traduction d'anglais en espagnol du Manuel du Mexique, déjà en feuilles d'impression, fut entreprise en même temps que celle en anglais du manuscrit portugais du Manuel du Brésil, écrit par le savant Secrétaire de la Légation Brésilienne à Washington, Mr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

Une communication fut alors envoyée à tous les représentants des pays de l'Union Internationale à Washington, les priant de vouloir bien coopérer officiellement en fournissant au Bureau les dernières données officielles provenant de leurs pays respectifs pour les nouvelles éditions des différents manuels, aussi bien que leurs avis et concours personnels. Les réponses reçues furent toutes on ne peut plus favorables et une quantité d'ouvrages et autres documents imprimés ont déjà été adressés au Bureau par les soins de ces hauts fonctionnaires.

Le Manuel du Mexique aurait pu déjà être terminé si on n'avait pas cru plus convenable d'en faire une œuvre plus complète embrassant certaines matières qui jusqu'à présent n'avaient été traitées que très superficiellement ou complètement mises de côté et de donner des chiffres statistiques absolument nouveaux et exacts. Le retard apporté dans la préparation de ce manuel est dû aussi à la nécessité de compiler les cartes, les chartes et autres documents indispensables pour faire une nouvelle carte de la République sur laquelle seront indiqués tous les renseignements ayant un caractère économique, l'étendue des cultures, les forêts, les mines, les chemins de fer, les lignes télégraphiques, etc., etc., qui peuvent être utiles aux lecteurs. On se propose de publier de temps en temps, aussitôt que les données pour la préparation seront suffisamment abondantes, d'autres cartes semblables des autres Républiques et dont le besoin se fait vivement sentir. Un dessinateur expérimenté est employé à cet effet, et la carte du Mexique a été commencée; les cartes des autres Républiques sont en voie de préparation (toutes faites sur une même et large échelle) et comprendront tous les renseignements indiqués plus haut.

Afin de faire de ces manuels des ouvrages dignes de foi et, si possible, des œuvres modèles, comme il convient à l'importance des Républiques et à la position du Bureau comme leur représentant, les services d'autorités éminentes dans les Etats-Unis aussi bien que dans les diverses Républiques ont été sollicités; quelques-unes ont déjà répondu à notre

appel, pour la préparation des chaptres de ces ouvrages dont la rédaction réclame des experts.

Aussitôt que le Manuel du Mexique sera terminé, ceux des autres pays seront commencés à fur et à mesure que les données nécessaires seront obtenues. De petites éditions seront publiées et de nouvelles paraîtront aussitôt que des statistiques plus récentes et d'autres documents nous parviendront.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE.

On ne saurait donner trop d'importance à la Bibliothèque du Bureau qui devrait être maintenue aussi complète que possible dans tous ses départements afin qu'il puisse remplir sa mission à l'entière satisfaction de l'Union Internationale. Chaque ouvrage, officiel ou privé, chaque carte, chaque document concernant les différentes Républiques Américaines devrait s'y trouver, car c'est le seul endroit aux Etats Unis où on comptera naturellement trouver ces ouvrages. Le Bureau consacrera tous ses efforts pour atteindre ce but et, avec l'obligeante collaboration des Représentants Diplomatiques des Républiques Latines Américaines à Washington et de leurs gouvernements, des sociétés savantes de leurs différents pays et des particuliers intéressés dans son succès, it faut espérer, que l'on atteindra à la fin le but désiré.

Le nombre de volumes actuellement dans la Bibliothèque atteint le chiffre approximatif de 5,000. Parmi eux se trouvent des ouvrages de littérature de toute espèce et qui ne sont pas appropriés au caractère de la Bibliothèque de ce Bureau. Peu d'additions ont été faites pendant les six dernières années. Il serait à désirer que l'on échangeât ou que l'on vendît tous ces livres inutiles ainsi que tous les duplicatas et qu'on les remplaçât sur les rayons par des ouvrages ayant seulement trait aux Républiques Américaines. Les ouvrages qui ont été conservés et qui serviront de base à la collection sont ceux qui traitent des questions suivantes:

(1) Agriculture et ressources agricoles.
(2) Colonisation et terrains publics.
(3) Commerce.
(4) Etudes géographiques.
(5) Histoire.
(6) Lois, rapports du Gouvernement, projets de loi et documents.
(7) Mines, ressources minières et minérales.
(8) Chemins de fer.
(9) Statistiques.
(10) Voyage et description.
(11) Divers livres de renseignements, dictionnaires, etc.

Un catalogue est en voie de préparation de tous les ouvrages qui composent maintenant la Bibliothèque. Leurs titres ainsi que ceux de tous les nouveaux livres sont classés par ordre sur des cartes-catalogúes sous le nom des différents pays qu'ils traitent. On se propose de com-

prendre dans ce catalogue une table des matières de tous les ouvrages importants qui intéressent les Républiques Latines Américaines et qui peuvent être trouvés dans la Bibliothèque du Congrès et des Ministères, comprenant même, autant que possible, les articles les plus importants qui ont paru dans les récentes publications périodiques.

C'est aussi le désir du Bureau de compléter la collection des lois, traités avec les puissances étrangères et statistiques officielles de chacun des pays qui sont représentés dans la Bibliothèque; travail qui a été considérablement négligé.

Des lettres ont été adressées à tous les Représentants Diplomatiques des différentes Républiques aux Etats-Unis contenant une liste détaillée des publications officielles de leurs pays qui se trouvent actuellement dans la Bibliothèque, indiquant les livraisons qui manquent pour compléter ces ouvrages et les priant de vouloir bien faire parvenir, pour la Bibliothèque du Bureau, les publications courantes de leurs Gouvernements. Un nombre considérable de publications d'une grande valeur a, par ce moyen, déjà été obtenu et tous ces fonctionnaires ont bien voulu donner leurs assurances au Bureau qu'ils avaient déjà fait les démarches nécessaires pour compléter la collection.

Les atlas et les cartes géographiques, dont le nombre s'élève à 85 environ, ont été rassemblés et catalogués sur des cartes et seront rangés de façon qu'ils puissent être consultés facilement. Les autres Bibliothèques de Washington ont été visitées; des listes ont été faites de toutes les cartes géographiques qui se rapportent à l'Amérique Centrale et à l'Amérique du Sud qui se trouvent dans ces différents établissements. Ces diverses cartes seront enregistrées, à titre de renseignements, dans le catalogue de la Bibliothèque.

Le nombre des publications périodiques reçues antérieurement au 1er septembre 1899 se montait à 1,034, dont 19 provenaient de souscriptions et 54 envoyées en échange du BULLETIN MENSUEL. Le Bureau reçoit maintenant régulièrement, soit par souscriptions, dons ou échanges, 1,725 publications périodiques, y compris les journaux quotidiens.

A l'avenir, les listes des nouveaux ouvrages seront publiées tous les six mois et adressées aux différentes Bibliothèques et mises aussi à la disposition des personnes qui seraient désireuses de les posséder.

Le vif intérêt témoigné et l'appui cordial accordé au Bureau, non seulement par les différents Ministères des Etats-Unis, mais encore par tous les Gouvernements des Républiques Latines Américaines, leurs Représentants Diplomatiques et Consulaires dans ce pays, ont facilité le travail du Bureau, l'ont rendu plus utile, plus étendu, tout en accentuant son caractère international et la force de l'Union.

Si l'on examine les services que le Bureau a déjà rendu pendant les dix années de son existence et que l'on considère ceux qu'il pourra rendre dans le futur avec chacune des Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique du Nord prenant une part active à son développement, nous pouvons être confiants qu'il plus que réalisera les espérances de

ceux qui l'ont créé et qu'il sera un agent puissant, non seulement en étendant encore davantage une connaissance plus ample, plus claire, plus correcte des divers pays de ce continent, de leurs habitants, leurs travaux, de leurs pensées, des relations commerciales profitables à tous, et pour ouvrir des marchés plus larges pour les produits de chacun d'eux, mais aussi qu'il aidera à resserrer les liens de confiance et d'amitié entre chacun et tous les pays de l'Union.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Messieurs, votre obéissant serviteur,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Directeur.*

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT McKINLEY.

Le troisième message annuel du Président McKINLEY fut envoyé au 56me Congrès des Etats-Unis le 5 décembre 1899, le deuxième jour de la réouverture des Chambres. Les nombreux évènements qui se sont succédés pendant les mois qui se sont écoulés depuis l'ajournement du 55me Congrès sont racontés en détail, et les nombreuses recommandations importantes dont le Congrès précédent n'a pu tenir compte sont de nouveau répétées et font de ce présent message un document très volumineux.

Naturellement, la grande perte que viennent d'éprouver le Président et la Nation par la mort récente du Vice-Président HOBART occupe la première place dans les pensées du Président. Sans ce malheur, le premier paragraphe du message aurait certainement commencé en attirant l'attention du Congrès sur les conditions prospères du pays.

Les paragraphes qui traitent des questions commerciales et financières, ainsi que ceux concernant les Républiques Latines Américaines, Cuba et les nouvelles îles conquises par les Etats-Unis, sont ici réimprimés et seront lus avec très grand intérêt.

MORT DU VICE-PRÉSIDENT HOBART.

Avant de commencer vos délibérations, pleurons avec nos compatriotes la mort du Vice-Président HOBART qui est passé de vie à trépas dans la matinée du 21 novembre dernier. Sa grande âme repose maintenant dans la paix de la vie éternelle. Sa vie privée fut pure et noble, pendant que dans sa carrière publique il s'est toujours fait distinguer par ses hautes capacités, sa probité incorruptible et ses idés élevées. La mort vient de le ravir au poste important qu'il occupait avec tant d'honneur et de dignité, mais la noblesse de son caractère, le dévouement absolu avec lequel il remplissait tous ses devoirs, sa droiture en affaires et ses nobles vertus nous serviront toujours d'exemple sans égal et son souvenir restera gravé au fond de nos cœurs.

PROSPÉRITE DU PAYS.

Le 56me Congrès vient de s'assembler et a ouvert sa première session régulière dans un moment où le pays est dans des conditons de prospérité extraordinaire, où le peuple jouit d'un bonheur universel et où la paix et l'amitié règnent entre nous et tous les Gouvernements du monde. Notre commerce extérieur a augmenté en volume et en valeur. Les importations et les exportations réunies pour l'année sont les plus considérables qui aient jamais été constatées dans une seule année dans toute notre histoire. Nos exportations pour 1899 seules dépassent de plus de un billion de dollars le total général de nos importations et exportations en 1870. Les importations per capita sont 20 pour cent moindres que celles de 1870, pendant que les exportations per capita sont 58 pour cent de plus que celles de 1870, ce qui prouve que les Etat-Unis sont capables aujourd'hui, non seulement de satisfaire aux besoins de sa propre population qui augmente constamment, mais encore de contribuer à ceux des autres nations.

Les exportations des produits agricoles étaient $784,776,142. Quant aux produits manufacturés nous en avons exporté pour une valeur de $339,592,146, la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été exportée dans n'importe quelle année précédente. C'est un fait digne de remarque que les seules années dans toute notre histoire pendant lesquelles les produits de nos manufactures vendus à l'étranger dépassaient ceux achetés à l'étranger, étaient les années 1898 et 1899.

Les recettes du Gouvernement provenant de toutes les sources pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899 se sont montées à $610,982,004.35. Dans cette somme est comprise celle de $11,798,314.14, paiement d'une partie de la dette due au "Central Pacific Railroad." Les recettes provenant des droits de Douane se sont élevées à $206,128,481.75 et celles provenant des impôts intérieurs se sont montées à $273,437,161.51.

Pour l'année fiscale les dépenses se sont chiffrées à $700,093,564.02, laissant un déficit de $89,111,559.67.

Le Ministre des Finances estime que les recettes pour l'année fiscale courante monteront à $640,958,112, et en prenant pour base les sommes allouées pour l'année courante, les dépenses atteindront le chiffre de $600,958,112, laissant un surplus de $40,000,000.

Pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899, les recettes des impôts intérieurs ont augmenté d'environ $100,000,000.

L'excellente condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est montrée par le fait qu'il existait en caisse, le 1 décembre 1899, une balance comptante disponible de $278,004,837.72, dont $239,744,905.56 en monnaie d'or et en lingots. La confiance qui règne dans le pays a porté le peuple à faire davantage usage de la monnaie d'or, et les droits de douane sont maintenant presque entièrement payés avec ce métal.

* * * * * * *

L'activité qui s'est déployée dans l'industrie, ainsi que les conséquences qui s'en ont découlées, c'est-à-dire un plus grand nombre d'emplois pour

les travailleurs aussi bien qu'un salaire plus grand, donne au peuple un plus grand pouvoir d'absorber le médium en circulation. Il est vrai aussi que d'année en année, avec une plus grande superficie de terrain cultivé, l'augmentation constante des produits agricoles, tels que: le coton, le maïs et le blé, demandera une somme d'argent plus considérable. Ceci se fait spécialement remarquer à l'époque de la moisson et celle où l'on transporte la récolte.

MAINTIEN DE L'ETALON D'OR.

Je recommande instamment que, pour maintenir l'existence de l'étalon d'or, pour conserver la parité en valeur des monnaies des deux métaux (or et argent) et la même valeur, tout le temps, à chaque dollar, sur les marchés et dans le paiement des dettes, le Ministre des Finances soit autorisé à vendre les obligations des Etats-Unis et à employer tels autres moyens efficaces nécessaires pour atteindre ce but. L'autorité devrait aussi lui être donnée, suivant que les conditions l'exigeraient, de vendre les obligations à longue ou brève échéance, et devrait garantir un taux d'intérêt plus bas que celui fixé par le décret du 14 janvier 1875. Quoiqu'il n'y ait aucune crainte commerciale qui fasse retirer l'or d'entre les mains du Gouvernement, mais au contraire une confiance si générale que l'or vient au Trésor pour y être échangé contre du papier; néanmoins cette condition même indique le présent comme le temps le plus propice pour adopter des mesures capables d'assurer la continuation de l'étalon d'or, et en même temps de la confiance publique dans la capacité et l'intention du Gouvernement de faire face à toutes ses obligations avec la monnaie que le monde civilisé reconnaît comme la meilleure. Les transactions financières du Gouvernement sont faites d'après l'étalon d'or. Nous recevons de l'or quand nous vendons les obligations des Etats-Unis, et nous les payons en or. Nous conservons la même valeur à toute la monnaie mise en circulation ou frappée avec l'autorisation du Gouvernement. Nous obtenons ce résultat avec les moyens que nous avons en mains.

Heureusement en ce moment nous ne sommes pas obligés de recourir aux emprunts pour nous approvisionner d'or. Cependant cela s'est déjà fait dans le passé, et peut-être serons-nous obligés de le faire dans l'avenir. C'est pourquoi il importe que nous trouvions immédiatement les meilleurs moyens pour faire face à cet évènement fortuit quand il se présentera et les meilleurs à employer sont ceux qui sont les plus sûrs et les plus économiques. Ceux actuellement autorisés ont un caractère ni direct ni économique. Nous nous sommes déjà débarrassés d'une des causes de notre embarras financier pendant les années 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896. Nos recettes maintenant égalent nos dépenses; un déficit dans les revenus ne nous alarme plus. Débarrassons-nous donc de la seule cause qui reste en conférant au Ministre des Finances tout le pouvoir nécessaire et en lui imposant le devoir de maintenir le présent étalon d'or, et de conserver à la monnaie d'or et d'argent une valeur égale qui est la politique maintes fois déclarée des Etats-Unis.

À ce sujet, je recommande de nouveau qu'une portion de l'or en réserve soit placée en dépôt, et qu'avec cette somme la monnaie fiduciaire (greenbacks), soit payable à vue par le Gouvernement; mais qu'après qu'elle aura été une fois rachetée, elle ne soit plus remise en circulation que contre de l'or.

LA MARINE MARCHANDE.

L'importance d'une marine marchande américaine afin d'étendre notre commerce et d'affermir notre pouvoir sur mer invite l'action immédiate du Congrès. Notre développement national restera imparfait et insuffisant aussi longtemps que l'accroissement remarquable de notre commerce intérieur ne sera pas accompagné par les progrès maritimes. Il ne manque pas d'autorité constitutionnelle pour une législation qui puisse donner au pays une force maritime proportionnée aux achèvements industriels et au rang qu'il occupe parmi les nations du monde.

L'année passée s'est fait remarquer par une activité exceptionnelle dans nos chantiers de constructions navales, et les promesses d'une prospérité continuelle dans la construction de navires sont abondantes. Une amélioration dans les lois concernant la protection de nos marins a déjà été faite. Notre commerce des côtes, conformément aux lois sagement promulguées au commencement de ce Gouvernement et depuis son existence, a donné, pendant l'année fiscale terminée, des résultats sans pareils dans nos annales ou dans celles de n'importe quelle autre puissance. Nous manquerions, cependant, de saisir les avantages qui nous sont offerts si nous nous contentions de considérer seulement les affaires chez nous et fermions les yeux à la nécessité d'assurer notre part dans le commerce important de transport qui existe dans le monde.

L'année dernière les vaisseaux américains ont transporté une part plus petite de nos importations et exportations que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente dans toute notre histoire, et la mesure de notre dépendance sur les vaisseaux étrangers fut manifestée douloureusement à notre peuple. Sans aucun autre choix, mais forcés par la nécessité, les Départements du Gouvernement chargés des opérations militaires et navales dans les Indes Orientales et Occidentales furent obligés d'avoir recours à la marine marchande des nations étrangères indispensables pour ces opérations.

Les autres grandes nations n'ont pas hésité à adopter les mesures nécessaires pour augmenter le nombre de leurs navires comme un facteur dans la défense nationale et comme un des moyens les plus sûrs et des plus rapides d'obtenir, sur les marchés étrangers, une place à leurs producteurs. La même vigilance et les mêmes efforts de notre part ne peuvent pas manquer de remédier à notre situation, qui est considérée comme une humiliation parmi nous et une surprise à l'étranger.

Même les sacrifices apparents qui dans le commencement peuvent

nous être imposés seront plus tard plus que compensés par les gains qui en résulteront.

La dépense n'est rien si on la compare aux avantages qu'on obtiendra. Le rétablissement de notre marine marchande entraînera dans une large mesure nos progrès industriels continuels et l'extension de nos triomphes commerciaux. Je suis certain que le jugement du pays favorise la politique d'aider notre marine marchande qui étendra notre commerce et nos marchés et augmentera notre tonnage sur mer pour les produits agricoles et manufacturés; lesquels, avec l'augmentation de notre marine de l'Etat, entraînera un accroissement de travail et de salaire pour nos compatriotes, aussi bien qu'une sauvegarde pour les intérêts américains dans toutes les partes du monde.

LA FRONTIÈRE ARGENTINE-CHILIENNE.

Le différend qui a existé pendant longtemps entre la République Argentine et le Chili, au sujet de la délimitation des frontières entre ces deux pays, a été tranché au mois de mars dernier par l'arrêt d'un Tribunal d'Arbitration dont le Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Etats-Unis à Buenos-Ayres servait d'arbitre.

Des progrès ont été faits avec la République Argentine dans le but de conclure une convention d'extradition. Ayant été avisée et approuvée par le Sénat et ratifiée par la République Argentine, cette convention n'attend plus que quelques légers changements dans le texte avant d'être échangée.

AFFAIRES BOLIVIENNES.

Au commencement de l'année, la paix de la République Bolivienne fut troublée par une insurrection victorieuse. Le Ministre des Etats-Unis est resté à son poste, protégeant dans ce pays les intérêts américains ainsi que ceux des sujets anglais, en l'absence de leur Représentant national. Aussitôt que le nouveau Gouvernement fut installé, notre Ministre reçut les instructions nécessaires pour entrer en relations avec lui.

Le 23 octobre 1899, le Général PANDO fut élu Président de la République Bolivienne.

Des instructions ont été envoyées à notre Représentant Diplomatique afin qu'il fasse tous les efforts permis pour obtenir du Gouvernement qu'il réforme ses lois relatives aux mariages afin de donner tous les bénéfices de la loi aux mariages civils et non-catholiques des étrangers dans sa juridiction, et on espère sincèrement que la loi bolivienne sera rapportée à ce sujet comme celle du Pérou, depuis quelques années, pour être en harmonie avec la coutume générale des Etats modernes.

RELATIONS CORDIALES AVEC LE BRÉSIL.

Une Convention d'Extradition avec le Brésil, signée le 14 mai 1897, a été ratifiée par le Pouvoir Législatif du Brésil.

Pendant l'été dernier, deux vaisseaux de guerre des Etats-Uins fu-

rent envoyés en mission amicale dans les ports brésiliens et reçurent un accueil des plus cordiaux. Le voyage du *Wilmington* dans le fleuve des Amazones a donné lieu à un malentendu passager dû à une confusion au sujet des démarches à faire pour obtenir la permission de visiter l'intérieur et de faire des levées hydraugraphiques dans l'intérêt général de la navigation, mais l'incident n'eut aucune suite, et un prompt adjustement harmonisant avec les relations d'amitié étroites que ce Gouvernement a toujours essayé de cultiver soigneusement avec les Républiques du Continent Occidental fut trouvé.

AFFAIRES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE COLOMBIENNE.

La demande en dommages résultant de la saisie des journaux américains, "The Panama Star" et "l'Herald" par les autorités colombiennes, a été réglée après une controverse de plusieurs années, le Gouvernement Colombien s'étant engagé à payer une indemnité de $30,000 en trois termes de $10,000 dollars chacun.

L'amitié de la Colombie pour notre pays s'est manifestée de nouveau par la manière cordiale avec laquelle elle a augmenté de nouveau les facilités à la Commission du Canal de Nicaragua, les investigations que cette dernière doit faire sur le Canal de Panama et les autres routes projetées à travers l'Isthme de Darien.

Vers la fin d'octobre, un mouvement insurrectionnel a commencé dans la République Colombienne. Cette insurrection n'a jusqu'ici produit aucun résultat décisif et est encore en progrès.

RÉVOLUTION À SAINT-DOMINGUE.

Notre voisine, la République de Saint-Domingue, a été dernièrement le théâtre d'une révolution après une longue période de tranquilité. Elle commença au mois de juillet dernier par l'assassinat du Président HEUREAUX et prit fin par l'abandon, par le Vice-Président successeur, des rênes du Gouvernement aux insurgés. Le premier acte du Gouvernement Provisoire fut de convoquer une élection présidentielle et constitutionnelle. JUAN ISIDRO JIMENEZ ayant été élu, fut installé au Pouvoir le 14 novembre 1899. Les Relations Diplomatiques out été établies avec le nouveau Gouvernement.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS ET SALVADOR.

L'association tentative de Nicaragua, Honduras et Salvador, sous le nom de la Grande République de l'Amérique Centrale * * * fut rompue pendant les derniers jours du mois de Novembre 1898 par le retrait de la République de Salvador. En conséquence, les Républiques de Nicaragua et de Honduras annulèrent leur pacte, chacune reprenant sa première souveraineté indépendante. Ceci fut suivi par la réception du Ministre MERRY par les Républiques de Nicaragua et de Salvador, pendant que le Ministre Hunter à son tour remettait ses lettres de

créance au Gouvernement de Honduras, revenant ainsi à l'ancienne distribution des agences diplomatiques des Etats-Unis dans l'Amérique Centrale, en conformité avec nos lois existantes. Un Envoyé Extraordinaire de Nicaragua a été accrédité auprès du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis.

AFFAIRES DE NICARAGUA.

Un mouvement insurrectionnel, à la tête duquel se trouvait le Général REYES, éclata à Bluefields au mois de février dernier, et pendant quelques temps exerca un contrôle actuel dans le territoire de Mosquito. Le vaisseau le *Detroit* fut immédiatement envoyé là pour protéger les intérêts américains. Au bout de quelques semaines, le Gouvernement du Général REYES abandonna la lutte et restaura la suprématie du Gouvernement de Nicaragua. Pendant l'interrègne, certains impôts publics dus sous la loi du Nicaragua furent levés sur des négociants américains par les autorités qui se trouvaient pour le moment avoir en mains le contrôle administratif effectif. Mais quand le Gouvernement titulaire fut restauré, un paiement de ces droits fut réclamé de rechef. Cela donna lieu à un conflit au sujet de la validité du paiement original de la dette au Pouvoir "de facto" du territoire. Une entente eut lieu, cependant, au mois d'avril dernier entre le Ministre des Etats-Unis et le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Nicaragua, qui décidèrent que les montants des paiements (duplicata) seraient déposés entre les mains du Consul de la Grande-Bretagne en attendant que le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis et celui de Nicaragua décidassent la question par un arrangement direct. Le différend n'a pas encore été réglé.

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LE CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

La Commission du Canal de Nicaragua, nommée à l'effet d'étudier le projet d'un canal à travers le Nicaragua, ayant terminé ses travaux et fait son rapport, a été dissoute le 31 mai 1899, et le 10 juin une nouvelle commission, connue sous le nom de Commission du Canal Isthmien, fut organisée conformément aux termes de la loi votée le 3 mars 1899, dans le but d'examiner l'Isthme Américain, de décider qu'elle serait la route la plus praticable pour le percement d'une voie fluviale à travers l'Isthme, de faire une estimation de la dépense et de donner aussi d'autres détails essentiels.

Cette commission, sous la présidence du Contre-Amiral JOHN G. WALKER de la Marine des Etats-Unis (en retraite), se mit immédiatement à l'œuvre et est en train de faire des études élaborées dans la République de Nicaragua, tout le long de la route du Canal de Panama; et dans le Darien, depuis l'Atlantique, dans le voisinage de la Rivière Atrato, jusqu'à la Baie du Panama, sur la côte du Pacifique. * * * Les travaux seront poursuivis avec la plus grande activité. * * *

On ne saurait trop ni trop souvent insister auprès du Congrès sur la grande importance de cette entreprise. Dans mon message de l'année

dernière, j'ai exprimé mes idées sur la nécessité d'une voie fluviale reliant les deux grands Océans, et sur laquelle j'invite de nouveau votre considération. Les raisons données alors pour une action immédiate sont encore bien plus sérieuses aujourd'hui.

ACTION GÉNÉREUSE DU CHILI.

Un agréable incident dans les relations de ce Gouvernement avec celui du Chili s'est produit dans le secours généreux porté au vaisseau de guerre *Newark*, en détresse dans les eaux Chiliennes. Ce n'est pas seulement dans cette circonstance que le Chili nous a témoigné ses sentiments d'amitié. Cette République a accepté la convention pour la création du Bureau des Républiques Américaines dont font maintenant partie tous les Etats Indépendants de ce Continent.

L'échange des ratifications d'une convention pour organiser à nouveau la Commission des Etats-Unis et du Chili (United States and Chilean Claims Commission) et pour prendre une décision au sujet des demandes en dommages, jadis présentées, mais que l'on ne put pas considérer pendant les travaux de la première commission, a été retardé en attendant la décision du Sénat Chilien sur les amendements incorporés à la ratification du traité par le Sénat des Etats-Unis. Cette formalité sera bientôt remplie.

PLUS GRANDE INTIMITÉ AVEC LE MEXIQUE.

L'année s'est fait remarquer par le développement constant de nos relations amicales avec le Mexique et par la grandeur des échanges mutuels avantageux. Ce Gouvernement n'a perdu aucune occasion de témoigner son grand désir de reserrer et perpétuer les liens de cordialité qui depuis si longtemps n'ont jamais, heureusement, été rompus.

Le 20 juin 1899 le Mexique ayant mis fin à la Convention d'extradition, un nouveau traité plus en rapport avec les besoins connus des deux pays fut signé le 22 février 1899 et échangé dans la ville du Mexique le 22 avril dernier. Jusqu'à présent les résultats obtenus ont été efficaces et satisfaisants. Un cas récent a servi pour faire l'essai de l'application de son article IV qui prescrit qu'aucune des deux parties sera tenue de livrer ses propres citoyens, mais que le Gouvernement Exécutif de chaque pays aura le droit de les livrer si, dans son jugement, il croit devoir le faire.

L'extradition de Mme. Mattie Rich, une citoyenne des Etats-Unis, accusée d'homicide commis au Mexique, fut, après mûre considération, ordonnée, par moi, convaincu que les fins de la justice seraient par ce moyen atteintes. Une action semblable de la part du Pouvoir Exécutif Mexicain aidera, le cas échéant, non seulement à accomplir le désir des deux Gouvernements pour que les crimes graves ne restent pas impunis, mais réprimera en même temps les violences et les illégalités commises sur la frontière des deux pays. Le nouveau traité prescrit qu'aucun des deux Gouvernements n'assumera le droit de punir les crimes commis

exclusivement sur le territoire de l'autre. Ceci évitera, dans l'avenir, les controverses embarrassantes qui jusqu'ici se sont présentées, le Mexique soutenant avoir le droit de juger et punir un citoyen américain pour une offense commise dans la juridiction des Etats-Unis.

La Commission Internationale des Limites Fluviales, organisée conformément à la Convention du 1 mars 1889, pour régler les questions relatives à la frontière du Rio Grande, n'a pas encore complété ses travaux. Au moyen d'une convention signée le 2 décembre 1898, échangée et proclamée au mois de férvier dernier, un délai d'un an, jusqu'au 24 décembre 1899, a été accordé à cette commission.

Une invitation fut adressé au Président du Mexique pour visiter Chicago au mois d'octobre à l'occasion de la pose de la première pierre de l'édifice du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis dans cette ville; l'invitation fut cordialement acceptée par lui avec le consentement nécessaire du Congrès Mexicain, mais la maladie d'un des membres de sa famille l'empêcha de s'y rendre. Toutefois, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères y vint comme le représentant personnel du Président Diaz et à ce titre reçut tous les honneurs dus à son rang.

LES AFFAIRES DE CUBA.

Cette nation a assumé devant le monde une trés grave responsabilité pour le bon gouvernement de Cuba dans le futur. Nous avons pris un engagement qui demande, pour bien être rempli, une grande intégrité et une haute sagesse. Le nouveau Cuba qui renaîtra des cendres du passé doit nous être attaché par des liens d'une force et d'une étroitesse singulières si son bonheur permanent doit être assuré. Que ces liens soient organiques ou conventionnels, les destinées de Cuba sont d'une manière directe et irrévocable enchaînées aux nôtres, mais comment et jusqu'à quel point, l'avenir le déterminera suivant les évènements. Quelque soit le résultat, nous devons avoir soin que le Cuba libre soit une réalité, pas un nom, une entité parfaite, non une expérience hâtive contenant dans son sein tous les éléments de ruine. Notre mission, pour l'accomplissement de laquelle nous avons accepté les chances du combat, ne serait pas remplie si nous tournions à la dérive une communauté encore mal affermie pour faire face aux vissicitudes qui trop souvent poursuivent les Etats faibles dont la richesse naturelle et les ressources abondantes se balancent avec les défauts de leurs organisations politiques et les fréquentes occasions de rivalités internes qui sapent leurs forces et dissipent leurs énergies. Le plus grand bonheur qui puisse arriver à Cuba est la restauration de sa prospérité agricole et industrielle qui donnera des emplois aux bras inactifs et rétablira les poursuites de la paix. Voilà son principal et son plus pressant besoin.

Un ordre fut donné le 19 août dernier de faire le recensement de l'Ile pour être achevé le 30 du mois de novembre. D'après le traité de paix, les Espagnols qui habitent l'Ile ont jusqu'au 11 avril 1990 pour décider s'ils désirent rester sujets Espagnols ou devenir citoyens de Cuba.

Jusqu'à cette époque on ne pourra pas s'assurer définitivement quels seront ceux qui auront le droit de participer à la formation du Gouvernement de Cuba. À ce moment-là les tableaux des résultats du recensement auront été dressés et nous procèderons aux élections qui remettront entre les mains des fonctionnaires élus par le peuple des gouvernements municipaux de l'Ile. L'expérience ainsi acquise sera d'une grande valeur pour la formation d'une convention représentative du peuple pour rédiger une constitution et établir un système général de gouvernement indépendant pour l'Ile. En attendant, et aussi longtemps que nous exerçons un contrôle dans l'Ile, les produits de Cuba devraient avoir un marché aux Etats-Unis dans des conditions aussi bonnes et des droits d'entrée aussi favorables que ceux qui sont accordés aux Antilles, conformément aux traités de réciprocité qui seront passés.

Dans le but de soulager les souffrances de l'Ile de Cuba, le Dèpartement de la Guerre a fait parvenir, par l'intermédiaire des officiers de l'armée, des vivres aux indigents montant à 5,493,000 rations, coûtant $1,417,554.07.

Afin de faciliter le désarmement de l'Armée des Volontaires Cubains, dans l'intérêt de la paix publique aussi bien que pour le bien-être du peuple, une somme de $75 a été payée à chaque soldat cubain dont le nom se trouvait inscrit sur les listes authentiques de l'armée, à la condition de déposer leurs armes entre les mains des autorités désignées par les Etats-Unis. La somme déboursée pour cela s'est élevée à $2,547,750, qui fut payée sur les fonds d'urgence accordés par l'acte du 5 janvier 1899 pour cette fin.

Des recettes perçues dans l'Ile de Cuba pendant le semestre finissant le 30 juin 1899, $1,712,014.20 furent dépensés pour mesures sanitaires; $293,881.70 pour charités et les hôpitaux, et $88,944.03 pour secours aux indigents.

RELATIONS AVEC L'ESPAGNE.

Après l'échange des ratifications du traité de paix, les deux Gouvernements accréditèrent réciproquement des Ministres; l'Espagne ayant envoyé le Duc d'Arcos, Diplomate éminent qui occupait précédemment un poste au Mexique, et les Etats-Unis transférant à Madrid, l'Honorable Bellamy Storer, son Ministre à Bruxelles. Ceci fut suivi par les nominations respectives de consuls; renouant complètement ainsi les relations qui avaient été interrompues par la guerre. En sus de sa représentation consulaire aux Etats-Unis, le Gouvernement espagnol a nommé des consuls à Cuba qui ont été provisoirement reconnus pendant l'administration militaire des affaires dans l'Ile.

En conformité avec les stipulations du traité de paix, les relations judiciaires entre les tribunaux de Cuba, de Porto Rico et d'Espagne ont été renouvelées. Les prisonniers politiques Cubains qui ont été détenus dans les stations pénales d'Espagne ont été et sont encore mis en liberté et renvoyés dans leur patrie, en conformité de l'Article VI

du traité. On est en train de renouer les négociations pour définir les relations conventionnelles entre les deux pays, lesquelles ont été suspendues par suite de la guerre. J'espère qu'elles y incluront un arrangement favorable pour la réciprocité commerciale, d'après les termes des sections 3 et 4 du tarif en vigueur. En ceci, comme dans toutes les affaires internationales, on épargnera aucun effort pour répondre à la bonne disposition de l'Espagne et pour cultiver, par tous les moyens praticables, l'intimité qui doit prévaloir entre deux nations dont l'histoire passée s'est si souvent fait remarquer par une sincère amitié et par une communauté d'intérêts.

TRAITÉ ANGLO-VENEZUELIEN.

La Commission Internationale d'Arbitration, nommée conformément au Traité Anglo-Vénézuélien de 1897, prononça son arrêt le 3 octobre dernier par lequel la ligne frontière entre le Vénézuéla et la Guyane Anglaise est délimitée, tranchant ainsi le différend qui a existé durant la plus grande partie de ce siècle. La sentence arbitrale, prononcée à l'unanimité par les arbitres, quoique n'ayant pas rencontré l'extrême contention de chaque parti, donne à la Grande-Bretagne une grande portion du territoire intérieur en dispute, et au Vénézuéla l'embouchure toute entière de l'Orinoco, y compris le point Barima et le littoral de la Mer des Antilles jusqu'à une certaine distance dans la direction est.

La décision paraît satisfaire également les deux partis.

AFFAIRES DE VENEZUELA.

Une révolution vient encore une fois d'éclater au Vénézuéla. Les insurgés, sous les ordres du Général CASTRO, après une lutte sanglante dans laquelle ils ont subi des pertes considérables, se sont ralliés dans les régions montagneuses de l'intérieur et se sont avancés vers la capitale. Le gros de l'armée ayant pris part au mouvement, le Président ANDRADE quitta Caracas où le Général CASTRO établit un Gouvernement Provisoire avec lequel notre Ministre et les Représentants des autres puissances sont entrés en relations diplomatiques le 20 novembre 1899.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

L'intérêt qu'ont pris les divers Etats formant l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines dans le travail de son Bureau organique est démontré par le fait que pour la première fois depuis sa création en 1890, toutes les Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique Centrale y sont maintenant représentées.

La recommandation unanime de la Conférence Internationale Américaine, pourvoyant pour l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines, décida qu'elle continuerait à être en vigueur pour un terme de 10 années depuis la date de son organisation, et qu'aucun pays devenant un membre de l'Union cesserait d'en faire partie avant la fin de

la dite période de 10 années; et à moins que 12 mois avant l'expiration de la dite période une majorité des membres de l'Union donnât au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères des Etats-Unis un avis officiel de leur désir de dissoudre l'Union à la fin de la première période, l'Union continuerait à être maintenue pour une autre période de 10 années et après cela, dans les mêmes conditions, pour des périodes successives de dix années chacune.

Le temps de la notification expira le 14 juillet 1899 sans qu'aucun des membres eût notifié officiellement son désir de se retirer. En conséquence son maintien est assuré pour les 10 années prochaines. En vue de ce fait et des nombreuses questions d'intérêt général et de profit commun pour toutes les Républiques d'Amérique, dont quelques-unes ont été considérées par la première Conférence Internationale Américaine, mais pas finalement résolues, et d'autres qui ont depuis lors acquis plus d'importance, il semblerait désirable que les diverses Républiques constituant l'Union fussent invitées à se réunir, dans un futur très rapproché, pour une autre conférence dans une des capitales d'un de ces pays, autre que les Etats-Unis qui ont déjà eu cet honneur.

Le caractère purement international du travail exécuté par le Bureau et l'appréciation de sa valeur sont encore accentués par la coopération active des divers gouvernements des Républiques Latines Américaines et leurs représentants diplomatiques dans cette capitale, et par les efforts zélés qu'ils font pour augmenter sa sphère d'activité, étendre par son entremise les relations commerciales, resserrer les liens d'amitié et de confiance entre ses divers membres et les nations de ce continent.

AFFAIRES DES PHILIPPINES.

Après avoir passé en revue dans tous ses détails l'insurrection dans les Iles Philippines et montrer les efforts que les autorités des Etats-Unis ont fait pour la supprimer, le Président s'exprime ainsi:

Le Congrès des Etats-Unis décidera quel sera le Gouvernement futur des Philippines. Nous n'avons jamais eu de plus graves responsabilités. Si nous les acceptons avec un esprit digne de notre race et de nos traditions, une grande occasion se produira avec elles. Les Iles sont sous la protection de notre drapeau. Elles nous appartiennent par tous les droits que nous donnent la loi et l'équité. Elles ne peuvent pas être abandonnées. Si nous les désertons, nous les livrons immédiatement à l'anarchie et finalement au barbarisme. Nous les jetons comme la pomme d'or de la discorde parmi les pouvoirs rivaux dont aucun ne pourrait permettre à l'autre de s'en emparer sans contestation. Leurs riches plaines et leurs belles vallées deviendront un théâtre de discorde et d'effusion de sang interminables. L'arrivée de la flotte de l'Amiral DEWEY dans la Baie de Manille au lieu d'être, comme nous l'espérons, l'aurore d'un nouveau jour de liberté et de progrès, sera devenue le commencement d'une ère de misère et de violence plus terrible qu'aucune de celles qui ont obscurci leur passé malheureux.

On a suggéré que nous pourrions renoncer à notre autorité sur ces Iles et, en leur donnant leur indépendance, que nous pourrions conserver un protectorat. Cette proposition ne sera pas trouvée, j'en suis certain, digne de votre attention sérieuse. Un pareil arrangement entraînerait dès le début un cruel abus de confiance. Il placerait la paisible et loyale majorité, qui ne demande rien de mieux que d'accepter notre autorité, à la merci de la minorité des insurgés armés. Cela nous rendrait responsable des actes des chefs insurgents et nous empêcherait de les contrôler. Ils nous imposeraient l'obligation de les protéger les uns contre les autres et de les défendre contre n'importe quelle puissance étrangère avec laquelle ils leur plairaient de chercher querelle. En un mot, cela ôterait au Congrès des Etats-Unis le pouvoir de déclarer la guerre et donnerait au Chef Tagal du moment cette énorme prérogative.

Je ne crois pas devoir recommander en ce moment une forme spécifique et finale de gouvernement pour ces Iles. Quand la paix sera rétablie, ce sera le devoir du Congrès de déterminer un plan de Gouvernement qui établiera et maintiendra la paix, l'ordre et la liberté dans les Philippines. L'insurrection n'est pas encore terminée, et quand elle sera complètement calmée, de plus amples renseignements seront nécessaires, concernant la condition actuelle des affaires, avant d'inaugurer un système permanent de gouvernement civil. Le rapport complet de la Commission, actuellement en préparation, contiendra des renseignements et des suggestions qui seront d'une très grande valeur pour le Congrès, auquel je le transmettrai aussitôt qu'il sera complété. Tant que durera insurrection, le pouvoir militaire doit nécessairement être suprême. Mais il n'y a aucune raison qui empêche de prendre de temps en temps des mesures pour inaugurer des gouvernements essentiellement populaires dans leurs formes au fur et à mesure que nos troupes possèdent et contrôlent un territoire. Dans ce but, je considère s'il ne serait pas sage de faire retourner la Commission ou tels membres de cette Commission que l'on pourrait obtenir pour aider les autorités existantes et leur faciliter cette organisation à travers les Iles. J'ai cru que la reconstruction ne devrait pas commencer par l'établissement d'un gouvernement civil pour toutes les Iles, avec son siége à Manille, mais plutôt que le travail devrait commencer par reconstruire de fond en comble; établissant d'abord des gouvernements municipaux, ensuite des gouvernements des provinces, et finalement un gouvernement central.

Jusqu'à ce que le Congrès ait fait connaître l'expression formelle de sa volonté, j'emploierai les pouvoirs qui m'ont été conférés par la Constitution et les Statuts pour maintenir la souveraineté des Etats-Unis dans ces Iles éloignées et dans tous les autres endroits où notre drapeau flotte légitimement. Je mettrai à la disposition de l'armée et de la marine tous les moyens que la libéralité du Congrès et du peuple ont accordé pour réprimer cette insurrection destructive et qui n'a pas été provoquée. S'il fallait que je donnasse les ordres nécessaires pour assurer la conduite clémente des opérations militaires et navales, je

ne faudrais pas de les donner; mais chaque progrès de nos troupes a été marqué par une humanité qui a surpris même les insurgents égarés. Le plus grand bien qui pourrait arriver aux insurgents serait la défaite prompte et définitive de leur présent chef. L'heure de la victoire sera celle du pardon et de la reconstruction.

Aucun effort ne sera épargné pour reconstruire les places qui ont été ravagées par la guerre et par de longues années de mauvaises administrations. Nous n'attendrons pas la fin de la querelle pour commenser le travail bienfaisant. Nous devons continuer comme nous avons commencé, c'est-à-dire construire des églises et des écoles, mettre les tribunaux en fonctions, faire prospérer les industries, le commerce et l'agriculture, et faire tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir pour faire sentir à ce peuple, que la Providence a placé sous notre juridiction, que c'est sa liberté et non notre pouvoir, son bonheur et non notre intérêt que nous cherchons à augmenter. Notre drapeau n'a jamais flotté dans aucun pays sans y apporter le bonheur, et j'ai la certitude que les habitants des Philippines reconnaîtront bientôt qu'il n'a pas perdu ce don bienfaisant dans le voyage à travers le monde jusqu'à leurs rivages.

AFFAIRES d'HAWAÏ.

On a éprouvé quelques embarras dans l'administration des Iles, en raison de la situation particulière dans laquelle elles se trouvent actuellement par suite de la résolution jointe d'annexion (joint resolution) approuvée le 7 juillet 1898. Tandis que par cette résolution la République d'Hawaï comme nation indépendante fut abolie, sa souveraineté individuelle détruite, et ses biens et ses possessions passés aux Etats-Unis, on a pas encore établi complètement son Gouvernement d'après notre système * * * *.

D'après la résolution d'annexion, le Président devait nommer cinq commissaires pour recommander au Congrès telle législation concernant les Iles qu'il jugerait nécessaire ou convenable. Ces commissionnaires furent régulièrement nommés et, après de sérieuses investigations et des études approfondies sur le système des lois et gouvernement prévalant dans les Iles et des conditions générales existantes, préparèrent un projet de loi pour l'établissement d'un gouvernement ayant pour titre "Le Territoire d'Hawaï." Le rapport de la commission ainsi que le projet de loi qu'ils avaient préparé furent transmis par moi au Congrès le 6 décembre 1898, mais le projet attend encore sa décision finale.

Le peuple de ces Iles a droit aux bénéfices et privilèges de notre Constitution, mais en l'absence d'aucun acte du Congrès créant des cours Fédérales dans les Iles et une procédure par laquelle les appels, les ordres en erreur (writs of error) et les autes actes judiciaires nécessaires pour le maintien des droits civils peuvent être poursuivis, se trouve impuissant de les faire respecter par le jugement des cours des Etats-Unis. En conséquence, il est évidemment important qu'un acte

soit passé le plus vite possible pour que ces Iles soient établies en district judiciaire, pourvoyant à la nomination d'un juge et d'autres magistrats nécessaires, ainsi que des méthodes de procédure dans les tribunaux d'appel, et que le gouvernement de ce territoire nouvellement acquis sous la Constitution Fédérale soit entièrement défini et établi.

LÉGISLATION POUR PORTO-RICO.

Je recommande qu'une législation aboutissant au même résultat, en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement de Porto-Rico, soit établie. Le moment est propice pour l'adoption d'une forme de gouvernement temporaire pour cette Ile.

Le système de la jurisprudence adopté actuellement par le peuple de cette Ile est décrit * * * comme tout à fait moderne et scientifique, en ce qu'il concerne les affaires intérieures, le commerce, la production et le droit social et privé en général. Les villes de l'Ile sont gouvernées d'après des chartres qui probablement demandent très peu ou aucun changement. De sorte que, en ce qui concerne les affaires d'intérêt local et de droit privé, il n'est pas probable que beaucoup ou presque pas de législation soit désirable; mais relativement à l'administration publique et aux relations de l'Ile avec le Gouvernement Fédéral, il y a beaucoup d'affaires qui sont d'une urgence pressante. Il est de toute nécessité que le Congrès fasse une législation pour établir des cours fédérales et une juridiction fédérale dans l'Ile. * * *

En dehors de l'administration judiciaire, il y a les sujets traitant des terrains publics; le contrôle et les travaux d'amélioration des rivières et des ports; le contrôle des eaux ou des courants non navigables qui, d'après la loi espagnole, appartenaient à la Couronne d'Espagne et sont, par le traité de cession, passés aux Etats-Unis; l'immigration du peuple des pays étrangers; l'importation des ouvriers sous contrat; l'imposition et la perception des impôts intérieurs; l'application des lois de navigation; le règlement de la monnaie courante; la création de bureaux de poste et de routes postales; le règlement d'un tarif de douane sur les marchandises importées de l'Ile dans les Etats-Unis; l'établissement de ports d'entrée et de livraison; le règlement des patentes et des droits d'auteur. Ces sujets avec beaucoup d'autres qui dépendent entièrement du pouvoir du Congrès, demandent une considération soigneuse et une action immédiate.

Il faut bien se mettre dans l'esprit que depuis la cession, l'Ile de Porto-Rico a été exclue des principaux marchés dont elle a eu longtemps la jouissance, et nos tarifs ont été continuellement contre leurs produits comme quand elle était sous la domination espagnole. Les marchés d'Espagne sont fermés à ses produits, excepté en se soumettant aux mêmes termes que le commerce de toutes les nations.

L'Ile de Cuba qui jadis achetait son bétail et son tabac sans exiger de droits de douane, impose maintenant sur ces produits les mêmes droits que ceux demandés pour les produits de n'importe quelle autre

contrée entrant dans ses ports. Elle a donc perdu son libre échange avec l'Espagne et Cuba sans aucun bénéfice équivalent dans le marché des Etats-Unis. Son café était peu connu et non consommé par notre peuple, et en conséquence il n'y avait aucune demande ici pour lui, un de leurs principax produits. Les marchés des Etats-Unis devraient être ouverts à ses produits. Notre simple devoir est d'abolir tous les tarifs de douane entre les Etats-Unis et Porto-Rico et de donner à ses produits l'entrée libre de nos marchés.

Par suite de l'ouragan qui a ravagé Porto-Rico le 8 août 1899, plus de 100,000 personnes furent réduites à la misère la plus profonde, sans abris et dépourvues de tous moyens d'existence. Le peuple des Etats-Unis a répondu promptement et généreusement à l'appel du Département de la Guerre. En dehors de la charité individuelle de notre peuple, le Département de la Guerre a dépensé pour le soulagement des malheureux $392,342.63, laquelle somme n'inclue pas les frais de transport. Il est désirable que le Gouvernement de l'Ile, d'après la loi du droit belligérant actuellement en vigueur à travers le Département Exécutif, soit remplacé par une administration entièrement civile dans sa nature. Pour les besoins du moment, je recommande que le Congrès passe une loi pour l'organisation d'un gouvernement temporaire qui devra pourvoir à la nomination, par le Président et sujette à l'approbation du sénat, d'un gouverneur et tels autres fonctionnaires, comme peut l'exiger l'administration générale de l'Ile, et que dans un but législatif sur les sujets de nature locale n'ayant pas un caractère fédéral, un conseil législatif, composé en partie de Porto Ricains et de citoyens des Etats-Unis, soit choisi et nommé par le Président, avec l'approbation du sénat, leurs actes devant être soumis à l'approbation du Congrès ou du Président avant d'entrer en vigueur.

Dans les municipalités et dans les autres subdivisions locales, je recommande que le principe d'un gouvernement autonome local soit appliqué immédiatement, afin de permettre aux citoyens intelligents de l'Ile de participer dans leur propre gouvernement et d'apprendre par l'expérience pratique les devoirs et les besoins d'un gouvernement du pays par le peuple. Je n'ai pas jugé bon de confier le gouvernement entier de l'Ile à des fonctionnaires choisis par la peuple, parce que je doute si par leurs mœurs, leur éducation et leur expérience ils sont en état d'exercer tout d'un coup une autonomie de gouvernement aussi étendue, mais je pense et j'espère qu'ils arriveront bientôt à acquérir l'expérience, la sagesse et le sang-froid qui justifiera qu'on leur accorde une plus grande participation dans le choix de leurs fonctionnaires insulaires.

Le besoin fondamental pour ce peuple, comme pour tous les peuples, est l'éducation. L'école libre est le meilleur précepteur pour les citoyens. Dans l'introduction des méthodes d'éducation modernes, il faut cependant avoir soin que les changements ne soient pas faits trop brusquement et que l'histoire et les particularités de race des habitants soient prises en considération. Les systèmes d'éducation dans ces nou-

velles possessions, basés sur les méthodes de sens commun, adaptés aux conditions existantes et ayant en vue l'avancement moral et industriel futur du peuple, leur fera réaliser d'une manière toute particulière les bienfaits d'un gouvernement libre. Le Congrès a devant lui de grandes opportunités pour accomplir de grandes choses; avec elles il y a aussi de graves responsibilités. Le pouvoir qui nous est confié augmente le poids de nos obligations envers le peuple, et nous devons en être profondément pénétré quand nous contemplons les nouveaux problèmes graves que nous avons à résoudre. Aspirant seulement au bien public, nous ne pouvons pas nous tromper. Une interprétation correcte de la volonté du peuple et du devoir ne peut pas manquer d'assurer des mesures sages pour la prospérité des Iles qui sont tombées sous la domination des Etats-Unis et de contribuer à l'intérêt commun et à l'honneur permanent de notre pays. Jamais cette nation n'a eu d'aussi abondantes raisons que pendant l'année pasée pour remercier Dieu pour les nombreuses bénédictions et bienfaits qu'il a versés sur nous, et pour lesquelles nous lui adressons notre reconnaissance révérencieuse.

MORT DU VICE-PRÉSIDENT HOBART.

L'Honorable GARRET A. HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis, est mort à Paterson (New-Jersey), sa ville natale, le 21 novembre 1899 après une longue maladie. Mr. HOBART naquit le 3 juin 1844 à Long Branch, New-Jersey. En 1863 il fut gradué du collège Rutgers. La même année il commença à enseigner dans une école, et plus tard fit son droit et choisit la profession d'avocat vers laquelle il se sentait attiré. Il entra dans le barreau en 1866 et pratiqua diligemment sa profession depuis cette époque jusqu'au jour où il devint Vice-Président, remplissant avec zèle et habileté ses devoirs de citoyen. En 1871 Mr. HOBART fut nommé Conseiller d'un des arrondissements de la ville de Paterson, sa première fonction publique. En 1873 il fut choisi comme Membre du Corps Législatif de l'Etat de New-Jersey. Il était Président de la Chambre des Députés en 1874 et Membre du Sénat dans son Etat en 1875. En 1880 il devint le candidat du parti républicain, alors en minorité, pour Sénateur des Etats-Unis. En juin 1896 Mr. HOBART fut choisi par la Convention Nationale Républicaine comme candidat de ce parti pour la Vice-Présidence des Etats-Unis, et fut élu le mois de novembre suivant.

Mr. HOBART fut un Président capable et impartial, et mérite le respect que les Sénateurs de tous les partis lui ont témoigné. Pendant son séjour dans la ville de Washington, Mr. HOBART a su s'attirer l'estime et l'affection de toutes les personnes qui l'ont approché. Il était consulté par le Président et ses Ministres, et dans diverses occasions importantes il a fait preuve de tact et ses avis ont été précieux.

Quoiqu'une grande partie de son temps fût dévouée à sa profession d'avocat et à la politique, il prit aussi une part active dans la direction d'affaires commerciales. Son habileté comme homme d'affaires est démontrée par le fait qu'il fut choisi comme un des trois arbitres de la "Joint Traffic Association," un poste que peu de personnes aurait pu remplir avec autant de succès. Il était membre du conseil d'administration de plusieurs chemins de fer et était intéressé dans de nombreuses entreprises industrielles dans la ville et dans l'Etat où il habitait.

Les obsèques de M. HOBART eurent lieu le 25 novembre 1899. Le Président MCKINLEY, entouré de ses Ministres, des Juges de la Cour de Cassation, d'une majorité des Sénateurs des Etats-Unis, d'un grand nombre de Députés, du Gouverneur et autres fonctionnaires de l'Etat de New-Jersey, du Gouverneur de l'Etat de New-York, de nombreux personnages éminents dans l'Etat et la nation, ont assisté à cette cérémonie funèbre. La scène fut mémorable, attendu que des hommes d'Etat célèbres aussi bien que des hommes inconnus dans les affaires publiques, représentant toutes les professions, tous les métiers, depuis les maîtres en politique et en diplomatie jusqu'au plus humble des ouvriers et des artisans, s'étaient assemblés autour du cercueil de ce mort illustre pour lui rendre un dernier hommage.

D'après la loi de ce pays, le Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, succède de droit au Chef de l'Etat. Le Sénateur WILLIAM P. FRYE, de l'Etat du Maine, qui a été nommé préalablement Président par intérim de ce corps, est devenu le Président du Sénat.

En apprenant la mort du Vice-Président, le Président MCKINLEY publia la proclamation suivante, dont les clauses ont été fidèlement observées.

PROCLAMATION DU PRÉSIDENT DES ETATS-UNIS.

Au peuple des Etats-Unis:

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis, est mort ce matin à 8 heures et demie à Paterson, New-Jersey, sa ville natale. La nation perd en lui un de ses citoyens les plus illustres et un de ses serviteurs les plus fidèles. Dans sa participation aux affaires aussi bien que dans la part qu'il a prise dans le Corps Législatif de son Etat natal, il fit preuve d'une fidélité constante, de talents remarquables et de grandes connaissances. Dans sa carrière trop courte comme Vice-Président des Etats-Unis et Président du Sénat, il montra les qualités élevées d'un homme intègre et judicieux. Dans le monde des affaires il avait peu d'égaux parmi ses contemporains. C'était un homme d'un caractère doux et noble. Il sera longtemps regretté par ses amis comme un homme d'une pureté d'âme et d'attraits particuliers dont la douceur de disposition gagnait tous les cœurs; pendant que ses vues élevées, son intégrité inflexible et son cœur entièrement dévoué au bien public lui ont acquis le respect et l'estime universels.

En mémoire de la perte douloureuse qui vient d'affliger le pays, j'ordonne que le jour des obsèques tous les Ministères des Etats-Unis soient fermés; que le pavillon national de tous les postes et établissements militaires et navals soient mis en berne et que les Représentants Diplomatiques et Consulaires des Etats-Unis à l'étranger rendent à cet illustre mort les honneurs qui lui sont dus, pendant une période de 30 jours.

En foi de quoi j'ai signé la présente et causé le sceau des Etats-Unis d'y être apposé.

Fait dans la ville de Washington, le vingt et unième jour de novembre, dans l'année de Notre Seigneur mil huit cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf de la cent vingt-quatrième année de l'Indépendence des Etats-Unis.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Par le Président de la République:

JOHN HAY,
Secrétaire d'Etat.

MARCHÉ POUR LE CAFÉ AUX ETATS-UNIS.

L'article suivant indiquant les conditions et les demandes de café dans les marchés des Etats-Unis a été soumis récemment au Congrès commercial international de Philadelphie qui l'a publié dans son rapport du 14 octobre 1899. L'auteur, Monsieur A. M. WOOLSON, de l'Etat de l'Ohio, donne les avis précieux qui suivent aux producteurs désireux de vendre leurs cafés:

"Le meilleur marché du monde pour le café est sans aucun doute celui des Etats-Unis, par la raison bien simple que nous buvons plus de café que les autres nations.

"D'après les statistiques qui ont été publiées cette année par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, il a été importé pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1898, 6,451,000 sacs de café, ou 870,514,455 livres, montant à la somme de $65,067,631, soit un prix moyen de 7.4 cents par livre et environ 11.45 livres par tête. Ces chiffres montrent que nous consommons presque autant de café que l'Allemagne, la France, l'Autriche, la Belgique, la Hollande, la Russie, l'Angleterre, et tous les autres pays réunis. On peut affirmer sans crainte que les marchés des Etats-Unis sont les plus importants pour le café. On présume que les délégués étrangers aimeraient à savoir comment les marchands d'Amérique s'y prennent pour vendre et acheter autant de café. A ce sujet, je ferai remarquer qu'antérieurement à l'année 1860, chaque marchand en détail achetait son café vert et les maîtres de maison le faisaient brûler chez eux, mais le génie inventif et l'habileté de l'ouvrier américain ont perfectionné les méthodes anciennes de grillage, ce qui est d'un avantage manifeste pour les consommateurs, et le résultat a été la création de grands et nombreux établissements où l'on brûle le café.

Le peuple prit alors l'habitude d'acheter le café brûlé au lieu du vert, préférant naturellement éviter la responsibilité de griller lui-même son café.

"Cette industrie a pris une telle extension, qu'aujourd'hui 90 pour cent de tout le café importé aux Etats-Unis est vendu par les marchands aux consommateurs après qu'il a été grillé. Le café acheté dans ces conditions est d'une grande économie pour le consommateur, car il est brûlé par des hommes habiles et initiés au métier, qui sont pourvus de toutes les machines et facilités nécessaires et qui fournissent un produit des plus uniformes et des plus désirables. Un petit nombre de places dans la partie méridionale des Etats-Unis semblent avoir une grande préférence pour le café vert, mais dans tout le Nord, l'Est et l'Ouest, l'article brûlé a le monopole. Il est regrettable que tant de café importé soit mélangé de petites pierres, ou comme nous les appelons de "diamants brésiliens;" cela oblige l'ouvrier qui le brûle à séparer, au moyen de machines spéciales, les substances étrangères qu'il contient. La moyenne est presque une livre par sac.

"Le planteur qui nous envoie le café le plus pur est récompensé en voyant son produit préféré et par conséquent coté un prix plus élevé. Nous avons employé des centaines de tonnes de ces pierres à paver les trottoirs et les allées qui entourent nos maisons. Un grand nombre de planteurs croient sans doute qu'ils obtiendront un plus grand prix de leur café en y mélangeant le plus de pierres possible, mais c'est une grave erreur qu'ils commettent parce que le café vert est examiné par des experts qui estiment le café qui contient des pierres inférieur au café sans mélange."

LA RÉCOLTE DE BLÉ DU MONDE PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1899.

D'après les chiffres qui ont été fournis par M. BROOMHALL, le statisticien anglais, la récolte du blé dans toutes les parties du monde, pendant l'année 1899, a été moins abondante que celles des autres années. Cette diminution s'est fait remarquer non seulement dans la production du blé, mais aussi dans toutes les autres classes de céréales. D'après ce statisticien, le total de la récolte du monde s'est élevé en 1899 à 2,496,000,000 boisseaux, soit 390,000,000 boisseaux de moins que pendant l'année 1898, mais 226,000,000 boisseaux de plus que pendant l'année 1897. La plus grande diminution a été constatée dans toute l'Amérique où une baisse de 18.6 pour cent (une différence de 168,000,000 boisseaux) s'est produite. La diminution en Europe est presque aussi grande et se chiffre à 163,000,000 boisseaux, mais la proportion montre seulement un faible excédent de 10 pour cent. La diminution constatée en Asie est de 11 pour cent; en Afrique, 30 pour cent; en Australie, 16 pour cent.

La quantité de blé en réserve, connue et inconnue, et qui représente le surplus de la récolte de l'année dernière (la plus riche que l'on ait jamais faite), a été plus forte que toutes celles des années récentes, et ce sont ces réserves qui fixeront, dans l'avenir, les prix. M. BROOMHALL estime que le blé en réserve peut être évalué à 240,000,000 boisseaux de plus que l'année dernière, mais étant donnée une diminution de 390,000,000 boisseaux dans le rendement, la perspective semble certainement indiquer que tout l'approvisionnement disponible sera requis.

Un autre point sur lequel le journal hebdomadaire "Bradstreets" a attiré l'attention, en commentant sur la situation de la récolte du blé, est la grande augmentation du fret occasionnée par le Gouvernement de la Grande-Bretagne qui emploie de nombreux vaisseaux comme transports de guerre. Cette augmentation a été considérable et équivaut à une hausse indépendante de plusieurs centimes dans le prix du blé dont les embarquements pour l'Europe sont très difficiles à cause de la rareté des navires. Les exportateurs sont donc obligés d'entrer en concurrence avec le commerce d'exportation en général s'ils veulent obtenir une place sur les bateaux pour leurs marchandises.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

COMMERCE AVEC LA BELGIQUE.

Les échanges de la Belgique avec la République Argentine ont, dit le "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" du 9 novembre 1899, progressé l'année dernière; c'est ainsi qu'on relève aux importations un total de 100 millions contre 68 millions en 1897. Cette plus-value porte surtout sur les grains 38 millions contre 13 millions et les graines oléagineuses 10,700,000 fr. contre 4,800,000 fr. En ce qui concerne les exportations belges, elles se sont chiffrées par 20,600,000 fr., soit près de 4 millions de plus que l'année antérieure. Augmentation principale: tissus de coton, 2,180,000 fr. contre 1,638,000 fr.

BOLIVIE.

LE COMMERCE D'IMPORTATION À POTOSI.

Potosi est un centre d'importation fort important lorsqu'on tient compte de sa population peu dense. Son commerce est encore appelé à augmenter dans des proportions considérables à mesure que le chemin de fer viendra desservir les mines de la région. L'absence de moyen de communications, le caractère accidenté du terrain, les crues des rivières pendant la saison des pluies et les grandes distances entre les diverses zones de production rendent les produits du pays

plus chers que ceux de l'étranger. A l'exception des bois de construction et des fourrages secs, qu'on ne peut importer avec bénéfice que dans les villes rapprochées du chemin de fer, les produits manufacturés de l'étranger pénètrent jusque dans les endroits les plus reculés de la Bolivie. Le sucre venait autrefois de Santa-Cruz et se vendait à 32 boliviens le quintal de 46 kilos. Aujourd'hui il vient d'Allemagne et de Belgique et coûte 20 boliviens. Les eaux-de-vie ont été remplacées par l'alcool de 40°. Les Indiens, pour le boire, le mélange avec de l'eau. Autrefois cette fourniture était monopolisée par le Pérou. Aujourd'hui le Chili et l'Allemagne en ont accaparé la majeure partie.

Les principaux articles d'importation sont: des cotonnades, tissus de lin et de coton, des soieries et des meubles de toute classe. Il y a environ dix ans les meubles étaient importés de France, d'Angleterre et des Etats-Unis. A mesure que cette branche de commerce a pris de l'extension, la concurrence s'est établie et l'Allemagne et la Belgique fournissent aujourd'hui des meubles de qualité inférieure, mais de belle apparance et d'un bon marché que n'offrent pas les fabricants français.

Le principal importateur en Bolivie est l'Angleterre. L'Allemagne vient ensuite. La France ne vient qu'en troisième ligne.

NOUVEAU CABINET.

Le 26 octobre dernier, le Général Don José Manuel Pando a pris possession de la présidence, aux acclamations enthousiastes du peuple et des membres du Congrès.

Le Général Pando a composé ainsi son nouveau Ministère:

MM. Fernando Guadianna, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères; Carlos Romero, Ministre de l'Intérieur; Demetrio Calbinsonte, Ministre des Finances; Samuel Oropeza, Ministre la Justice et de l'Instruction Publique; Colonel Ismael Montes, Ministre de la Guerre.

BRÉSIL (AMAZONAS).

NOUVEAU CONTRAT.

D'après le nouveau contrat survenu entre le gouvernement de l'Etat et MM. Fiorita & Cie, les paquebots de ces armateurs feront deux voyages mensuels à Manaos, avec escales à Marseille, Barcelone, Tanger, Lisbonne, Leixoes, Ponta Delgada, Bélem, Parintins et Itacoatiara. De plus, la société établira à Rome, à Milan, à Turin et à Gênes quatre bureaux de propagande et de renseignements sur l'Etat d'Amazonas, où seront exposés les principaux produits naturels et de l'industrie amazonienne.

CHILI.

IMMENSES RICHESSES NON EXPLOITÉES DANS LE NORD DU CHILI.

L'ex-intendant de la province chilienne de Coquimbo, dans un rapport qu'il a adressé au Président de la République du Chili, a émis quelques considérations sur le conditionnement et les ressources des provinces chiliennes du Nord. Il commence par dire que, déjà depuis des années, il a lutté pour le développement des voies de communication qu'il a toujours considéré comme indispensable à la prospérité du pays. Entre Higuera et Vallemar, dit-il, il y a de riches gisements sans nombre de manganèse, de cuivre, d'argent et d'or, lesquels, s'ils pouvaient être ouverts à l'exploitation, amélioreraient de suite la situation financière du pays. Il y a du manganèse assez pour alimenter le monde entier; des filons de cuivre de telles dimensions, de telle abondance et de tel pourcentage que leur exploitation permettrait, au Chili, de recouvrer son ancien rang de fournisseur des 75 pour cent de la consommation du monde. Il n'insiste pas au sujet des mines d'argent de Coquimbo et d'Atacama, leur importance dit-il, étant universellement connue; mais ce qui n'est pas aussi généralement connu, ajoute l'ex-Intendant, c'est qu'il existe de l'or en si grande quantité que, si des moyens de communication étaient établis dans des conditions d'exploitation favorables, la production d'or serait égale en poids à la production actuelle d'argent.

D'après un ingénieur-expert qui a entendu en Europe et au Chili des rapports au sujet de la richesse des gisements compris entre Vallemar et Higuera, toutes les données seraient beaucoup en dessous de la vérité. Une exploration personnelle lui aurait prouvé que les filons s'étendent sur des longueurs de plusieurs kilomètres, que leur largeur varie entre 6 et 20 mètres, avec des profondeurs de 50, 100, 150 mètres, et même parfois d'avantage. La qualité de minerai est bonne et 10 à 15 pour cent de cuivre constituent le rendement moyen. Le même expert a exploré quelques collines, et il est convaincu qu'un beau jour elles produiront d'immenses quantités d'or. Le rendement moyen est estimé à 70 piastres or par tonne de minerai.

Par suite de la configuration géologique des collines et de l'absence de végétation, le travail d'exploitation est comparativement facile et sûr; mais, écrit l'ex-Intendant, rien ne peut être tenté avant qu'il n'y ait des moyens suffisants de communication. Par suite du manque de ces moyens, on voit des mines qui pourraient fournir du travail à plus de cinq cents ouvriers et dont le rendement pourrait être journellement de cent tonnes de minerai de cuivre de 8 à 9 pour cent, et qui n'emploient que douze ou quatorze ouvriers, extrayant par mois seulement quelques tonnes de minerai à rendement élevé, qui est la seule espèce de minerai qui puissent supporter les frais exorbitants de transport. Ces frais,

dit-il, peuvent être évalués à 20 piastres par tonne pour une distance de 60 kilomètres, prix qui se trouverait facilement réduit au dixième, soit à 2 piastres.

Il est vraiment déplorable, ajoute-t-il, d'entendre cette région, si richement douée par la nature, appelée un désert, alors qu'un chemin de fer qui pourrait être facilement construit, transformerait la contrée en une région des plus prospères du globe. Comme preuve de l'existence d'une pareille prospérité, il cite le cas d'une mine qui pourrait être prise comme spécimen de plusieurs autres, et dont les filons s'étendent sur 2 kilomètres avec une largeur de 6 mètres, une profondeur de 200 mètres, le rendement moyen étant de 5 pour cent. Ces chiffres représentent sept millions de tonnes de minerai, qui, sur la base de 5 pour cent, donneraient trois cent cinquante mille tonnes de cuivre d'une valeur totale de 300 millions de piastres. Il conclut en disant qu'on peut considérer que la contrée située entre Vallemar et Higuera est une des plus riches régions métallifères du monde, et que pour son développement il ne faut que des voies de communication.

MAISONS DE COMMERCE.

Les maisons s'occupant du commerce des tissus au Chili sont les suivantes:

Nom.	Localité.	Nom.	Localité.
Aguiar et Lobrinos	Valparaiso, Santiago et Conception.	Gleisner et Cie	Conception.
Bettely et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Francisco Garcia et Cie.	Iquique.
Miguel 2° Cariola et Cie	Valparaiso.	Prudencia Ochoa et Cie.	Do.
Commeuz et Metz	Do.	A. Brenner et Cie	Do.
Pra et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Alejandro Visscher et Cie.	Antofagasta, Arica et Mollendo.
James Goode	Valparaiso.	Dauelsberg, Schubering et Cie.	Do.
Ciriaco Sauz	Do.	Aramayo, Francke et Cie.	Do.
Simon et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Virgilio, Baron y Hidalda.	Coquimbo.
Mr. R. Curphey	Valparaiso.	Palassié et Lesté	Do.
Gunther, Vehrens et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Devès et Cie	Valparaiso.
Felimer et Cie	Do.		
Jouve et Gorlier	Do.		
Ernesto Muzac	Do.		
Biant Hermanos	Santiago.		
John Melrose et Cie	Do.		

Les grandes maisons d'importation sont en général des maisons étrangères, ayant en Europe des associés ou correspondants qui font leurs achats. Les affaires avec ces maisons se traitent donc par l'entremise de commissionnaires de Paris et d'autres places européennes. Le fabricant n'a pas à entrer en relations directes avec la maison d'importation au Chili.

Quand l'affaire est traitée sur place par l'entremise d'un agent ou représentant, c'est avec des maisons de moindre importance. Le fabricant peut faire traite sur ces maisons et faire accepter ces traites. Mais il faut remarquer qu'au Chili les maisons de détail sont obligées de faire des crédits excessivement longs et, par conséquent, de demander elles-mêmes aux fabricants des délais de paiement fort étendus. Pour

les affaires traitées sur place, il n'est donc pas toujours pratique de faire traite; l'acheteur signe le plus souvent de simples "pajarès" (billets à ordre) renouvelables.

MEXIQUE.

UN SYNDICAT.

Les producteurs de tabac de l'Etat de Vera-Cruz se plaignent de ce que les négociants et spéculateurs qui trafiquent spécialement sur cet article, se sont entendus à l'effet de ne plus se faire concurrence, dans le but de provoquer une baisse des prix. C'est ce qui explique pourquoi d'importants envois de tabacs sont faits en ce moment, à l'étranger et dans l'intérieur, à des prix bien au dessous des cours les plus bas enregistrés jusqu'à présent.

LE PAVAGE DE LA VILLE—ADJUDICATION IMPORTANTE.

Le Conseil Municipal de Mexico vient de lancer un avis, annonçant qu'il met en adjudication les travaux de pavage de toutes les rues de la ville. Après que ces travaux seront achevés l'adjudicataire devra s'engager à entretenir le pavage en bon état durant une période de dix ans. Les demandes d'adjudication doivent être adressées à M. le Secrétaire de la Municipalité dans les quatre mois qui suivent la publication de l'avis daté du 14 octobre 1899. Les soumissions doivent être présentées sous pli cacheté.

L'entrepreneur auquel seront adjugés les travaux devra effectuer un dépôt en garantie, dans l'une des formes suivantes:

1°. Cent mille piastres, en effectif, à la Banque Nationale.

2°. Ou deux cent mille piastres, en bons de la Dette Consolidée à la Banque Nationale;

3°. Ou cent mille piastres, souscrits à l'ordre du Conseil Municipal.

4°. Ou donner une hypothèque, sur une propriété quelconque, représentant la somme de $100,000.

LE NOUVEAU QUAI DE PROGRESO.

Par suite de l'augmentation croissante du trafic des navires et du mouvement commercial dans le port de Progreso, il a été nécessaire d'y construire un nouveau quai. Celui-ci est maintenant terminé et sera inauguré dès que le Ministère des communications et travaux publics en aura approuvé la construction. Le nouveau quai appartient à la Compagnie du chemin de fer à voie étroite qui relie Progreso à Merida.

FONDATION D'UNE COLONIE ALLEMANDE À MEXICO.

Le "Nouveau Monde" du 11 novembre 1899 annonce qu'il est question de fonder une colonie allemande dans l'Etat de Tamaulipas, avec

les nombreuses familles de cette nationalité résidant dans les parties centrale et sud-ouest de l'Etat du Texas (Etats-Unis). Les chefs de ces colons se dédient de préférence à la culture du coton en employant les meilleures méthodes connues.

LE COMMERCE ENTRE MEXICO ET L'ESPAGNE.

Une grande augmentation a été constatée dans l'importation des produits mexicains à destination de l'Espagne. En août dernier, la valeur des marchandises expédiées s'élevait à $143,170, tandis que durant le mois d'août de l'année précédente cette valeur n'atteignait que $95,102. Les importations de marchandises espagnoles dans la République pour le même mois d'août 1899 ont été de $170,808 (valeur de facture), soit en or, un excédent de $114,313 sur les importations de la même provenance en août 1898. Dans les deux mois de juillet et d'août de cette année les importations d'Espagne ont atteint $467,864.

ETATS-UNIS.

REVENUS INTÉRIEURS.

Dans son rapport au Ministre des Finances, sur les opérations de son bureau pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899, l'Honorable GEORGE W. WILSON, directeur des contributions indirectes, montre que les recettes de toutes sortes se montaient à $273,484,573. Ces recettes dépassaient celles de l'année précédente de $102,617,000 et surpassaient l'estimation du Directeur du mois de décembre 1898 de $3,484,573. Les recettes provenant des différentes sources de revenus pendant l'année dernière étaient les suivantes:

Articles.	Recettes.	Augmentation.
Alcools	$99, 283, 534	$6, 736, 534
Tabac	52, 493, 207	16, 262, 685
Liqueurs fermentées	68, 644, 558	29, 129, 137
Oleomargarine	1, 956, 618	640, 838
Fromage fait avec le lait écrémé	18, 098	1, 579
Farine mélangée	[1] 7, 840	.....

[1] La loi n'étant pas en vigueur l'année dernière.

Taxes spéciales non énumérées ailleurs, $4,941,541, la loi n'ayant été en vigueur que pendant une petite partie de l'année dernière; legs et part distributive de propriété personnelle, $1,235,435; droits de timbre d'après la cédule A de la loi sur les revenus de la guerre, $38,618,081; articles médicinaux patentés et préparations de médecine qui, d'après la cédule B de la loi, doivent être sujets au timbre, $5,219,737.

Parmi les collections énumérées ci-dessus sont compris:

Impôts sur les capitaux des banques, $3,750,834; salles de billard, 367,074; agents de change, $50,522; jeux de quille, $61,349; cirques, $18,233; toutes les autres représentations, $126,540; divers, $1,085,968.

Les articles retirés pour la consommation pendant l'année étaient les suivants avec les quantités pour chacune:

Alcools distillés provenant des fruits, 1,306,218 gallons; liqueurs fermentées, 36,518,114 barils; nombre de cigares de toutes sortes et poids, 1,077,387,824; nombre de cigarettes de toutes sortes et poids, 2,805,130,737; tabac à priser, 14,627,066 livres; tabac à chiquer et à fumer, 237,132,410 livres; oléomargarine, 80,495,628 livres; fromage fabriqué avec le lait écrémé, 1,688,641 livres.

Le montant de la somme totale dépensée pour faire rentrer les impôts pendant l'année s'élevait à $4,591,754 ou 1.68 pour cent des recouvrements. Ce droit de commission est le plus petit qui ait jamais été atteint dans les annales du Bureau de Contributions Indirectes. Pour la dernière année fiscale, les frais atteignaient 2.29 pour cent des recouvrements. La dépense pour la prochaine année fiscale sera plus forte et est estimée à $4,877,340. Quant à l'année terminant le 30 juin 1900, le Directeur estime que les recettes de toutes sortes approcheront la somme de $285,000,000, soit un gain de plus de $11,000,000 sur celles de 1899. Cette estimation est basée sur les recettes de 4 mois déjà connues.

Pendant l'année il y a eu 2,190 alambics illicites qui ont été saisis par les agents des contributions, et, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, un de ces receveurs fut tué et trois furent blessés; 711 personnes compromises dans cette affaire de distillation illicite furent arrêtées.

Parmi les recommandations du Directeur étaient les suivantes: Tous les bien-fonds aux Etats-Unis des personnes habitant à l'étranger au moment de leur mort doivent être taxés de la même façon que les propriétés des personnes résidant dans le pays; qu'il sera alloué aux acquéreurs d'estampilles particulières un escompte de 2 pour cent, pourvu que la quantité de timbres qu'ils achèteront ne soit pas au-dessous de 100 dollars; que les foires agricoles soient exemptes d'impôts; que les "profits qui n'ont point été partagés" doivent être considérés comme surplus en estimant la taxe que les banques doivent au Gouvernement; que la taxe sur les courtiers de commerce soit abolie ou que les autres genres d'affaires tels que: les marchands commissionnaires et les agents chargés de la vente et de la location des biens immeubles soient aussi requis de payer une taxe spéciale; que l'on fasse les changements nécessaires dans les lois existantes afin de permettre l'exportation avec les bénéfices d'une remise faite à l'exportateur des droits qu'il a payés pour les alcols distillés pourvu qu'ils soient mis dans les mêmes récipients où ils ont été placés par les rectificateurs et les marchands en gros, quands ils ont été reçus ou transférés sous les yeux d'un agent du Gouvernement; qu'une taxe spéciale qui ne devra pas être moindre de $480 par an soit imposée aux distillateurs produisant des alcools distillés provenant de matières autres que les pommes, les pêches, les raisins, les poires, les ananas, les oranges, les abricots, les framboises et les prunes.

CONCURRENCE COMMERCIALE AVEC LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

Les plus hautes autorités commerciales de la Grande-Bretagne reconnaissent aujourd'hui la concurrence américaine comme le problème le plus sérieux demandant leur attention. Dans aucune autre branche d'industrie cette concurrence est aussi apparente que dans les manufactures de machines de toutes sortes aussi bien que dans certaines fabriques d'outils destinés à économiser la main-d'œuvre. Cette condition des affaires a conduit le "London Engineering" à publier une série d'articles, écrits par des citoyens des Etats-Unis et des écrivains anglais, qui ont étudié cette question d'une façon toute spéciale.

Dans une note préliminaire aux séries, l'éditeur du "Engineering" s'exprime ainsi: "Aucune question industrielle, en ce moment, n'a préoccupé aussi vivement les manufactures anglaises que celles qui se rapportent à la concurrence américaine. Quelques personnes disent encore que cette concurrence n'est pas naturelle, que pour empêcher nos pratiques d'acheter les marchandises anglaises, les Américains vendent à perte celles fabriquées aux Etats-Unis; que les articles imposés sur les marchés du monde, de préférence aux nôtres, sont de qualité inférieure et d'un moins bon usage; que cette phase sérieuse de manufacture et de commerce n'est que passagère, mais que ceux qui sont capables d'envisager la chose à un point de vue plus large, savent que de tels rapports sont faux; ils connaissent parfaitement que dans beaucoup de produits manufacturés, les Etats-Unis peuvent nous battre par rapport aux prix et nous égaler, au moins, quant à la qualité; ils savent qu'actuellement et aussi dans un futur très rapproché, la lutte pour la concurrence deviendra plus ardente et que les avantages qui en résulteront ne seront pas pour nous."

CONDITION DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES.

Le rapport du statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, pour le mois de novembre 1899, qui complète en pratique les statistiques de l'année, montre que l'année 1899 a été probablement celle qui a produit la plus grande quantité de maïs qui ait jamais été obtenue dans les annales du pays. Les rapports reçus indiquent une récolte moyenne de 25.2 boisseaux par acre, comparée avec l'estimation préliminaire de novembre 1898 qui était de 24.8 boisseaux. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne est 87.2 pour cent au lieu de 82.7 pour cent en novembre 1898. On estime que 5.9 pour cent de la récolte du maïs de 1898 était dans les mains des fermiers le 1er novembre 1899, tandis que 7.25 pour cent de la récolte de 1897 y était le 1er novembre 1898. Le rendement indiqué par acre dans les principaux Etats qui produisent le maïs était comme suit: Indiana, 37; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvanie, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, et Missouri 25 boisseaux. On ne connaît pas le nombre exact d'acres. En prenant pour base l'arpentage de l'année dernière, les chiffres du Gouvernement

indiquent une récolte de 1,958,588,881 boisseaux. Mr. HYDE, le statisticien, donne cependant à entendre que la superficie ensemencée en 1899 est plusieurs millions de fois plus grande que celle de 1898. La récolte totale en 1898 était de 1,924,184,660, tandis que celle de 1896 était de 2,283,875,000 boisseaux. On croit que le rendement pour 1899 dépassera les derniers chiffres d'environ 2,400,000,000 boisseaux, quand toutes les statistiques seront connes.

Le rendement moyen du blé-sarrasin accuse 17.2 boisseaux par acre au lieu de 17.3 en novembre 1898, et 16.5 boisseaux, la moyenne des moyennes du mois de novembre pendant 10 années. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne est 88.4 pour cent au lieu de 85.2 pour cent en 1898. Quoique le rendement de ce grain soit un tant soit peu plus grand que celui de l'année dernière, la contenance a diminué de plus de la moitié. La récolte est estimée à 5,897,000 boisseaux au lieu de 11,722,000 boisseaux en 1899.

Le rendement moyen des pommes de terre est évalué à 88.7 boisseaux par acre, qui surpasse de beaucoup la moyenne des moyennes préliminaires pendant les 10 dernières années. La moyenne au 1er novembre 1898 était 75.2 boisseaux qui était aussi la moyenne pendant 10 années. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne était 91.4 comparée avec celle de novembre 1898 qui était 84.7. D'après l'estimation d'une moyenne de 2,534,577 acres, la récolte totale des pommes de terre sera de 224,816,979 boisseaux.

Le rendement moyen du foin, d'après les indications, est de 1.35 tonnes par acre, comparé avec celui de 1898 qui était de 1.55 tonnes, et 1.27 tonnes la moyenne des moyennes préliminaires pendant 10 années. La récolte du foin est estimée à 57,382,830 tonnes comparée avec celle de 1898 qui était de 66,377,000 tonnes, soit une diminution de 9,000,000 tonnes.

Quant aux fruits, la production, en ce qui concerne la récolte entière, était comme suit: Pommes, 47; poires, 47; raisins, 68.

La production de la canne à sucre, d'après les indications présentes, sera entièrement un quart moindre que celle de 1898.

Dans la Louisiane, l'Etat de la principale production, la diminution est de 30 pour cent, et dans les autres Etats qui produisent la canne à sucre il y a une réduction de 15 à 30 pour cent.

Le fait que l'estimation officielle préliminaire de la récolte du coton a été plusieurs fois au-dessous de l'estimation, c'est que, dans chaque cas, elle n'a pas été en rapport avec l'expansion rapide de l'aire productive. C'est pourquoi la très grande récolte de l'année dernière démontre clairement que la contenance a augmenté au-delà des estimations commerciales et officielles; aussi était-on décidé cette année à faire une investigation toute spéciale sur l'entière situation du coton. L'année dernière on a trouvé que l'aire productive a été à peu près de 25,000,000 acres, et que pour la présente année elle est d'environ 23,500,000 acres; et il est probable que les statistiques finales montre-

ront que la contenance actuelle a été au-dessous plutôt qu'au-dessus des chiffres mentionnés.

Les investigations démontrent un des plus petits rendements moyens par acre dans beaucoup d'années, et en calculant la récolte a un maximum de 9,500,000 balles, on a tenu compte de la tendance qu'ont les pessimistes à regarder la situation à un mauvais point de vue, les indications actuelles indiquant une récolte de moins de 9,000,000 balles.

D'après le rapport du Statisticien du Département de l'Agriculture, du 15 décembre 1899, la récolte du blé des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 s'est montée à 547,300,000 boisseaux, ou 12.3 boisseaux par acre. La production du blé d'hiver est estimée à 291,700,000 boisseaux et celle du blé du printemps à 255,600,000 boisseaux. Chaque Etat important qui produit du blé a été visité par des agents spéciaux du Département, et les changements dans la contenance qui ont été opérés sont le résultat de leurs investigations.

La nouvelle aire ensemencée du blé d'hiver est estimée à 30,150,000 acres, qui est environ 200,000 acres de plus que celle ensemencée pendant l'automne de 1898. L'ensemencement du blé continue encore en Californie et quelques Etats du Sud, et leur estimation précédente est sujette à correction. La moyenne de la condition est 97.1.

RÉFRIGÉRATEURS FLOTTANTS.

Le rapport du Général F. H. STANTON, Payeur-Général de l'Armée des Etats-Unis, contient une note au sujet des bateaux réfrigérateurs de la Marine. Il dit que l'emploi de bateaux réfrigérateurs pour fournir de la viande fraîche aux vaisseaux à Manille a donné les résultats les plus satisfaisants. Par suite de la manière dont ils sont aménagés, ces trois vapeurs en service suppléent, non seulement aux besoins de la Marine, mais ils transportent encore de grandes quantités de provisions destinées à l'Armée dans les Iles Philippines.

EXPORTATION D'HORLOGES, DE MONTRES ET DE BIJOUTERIES.

Le "Jewelers' Circular" du 22 novembre 1899 attire l'attention sur la popularité toujours croissante dont jouissent sur les marchés étrangers les horloges, les montres et la bijouterie fabriquées dans les Etats-Unis. Les statistiques sur les exportations, compilées dernièrement, pendant les deux derniers exercices en fournissent la preuve.

Pendant l'exercice finissant le 30 juin 1899, les exportations de pendules se sont élevées à $1,043,621 au lieu de $953,557 pour l'exercice précédent. Pendant l'exercice 1899 on a exporté des montres pour une valeur de $819,810, soit une augmentation de $47,898 sur l'année antérieure. En 1899 les exportations de bijouterie ont atteint le chiffre de $729,194 au lieu de $555,719 en 1898. Quant aux autres articles en or et en argent, le chiffre s'est élevé de la différence entre $192,061 en 1898 à $233,962 en 1899. Il y a quelques années seulement les Etats-Unis importaient la plus grande partie d'horloges, montres et bijoux en usage.

CHARRUE AUTOMOBILE.

Le Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventeur de l'arme à feu qui porte son nom, vient d'inventer une charrue automobile. Cette machine est construite sur le plan de l'automobile ordinaire avec des disques arrangés de façon à faire le travail des outils dont on se sert actuellement. La machine doit être maneuvrée par une personne. On assure que la machine peut produire le même travail que huit hommes et douze chevaux. On peut se servir de gasoline ou d'huile de pétrole, comme force motrice. On peut aussi l'employer pour mettre en mouvement une batteuse mécanique ou un égrenoir de maïs. Il y a une autre machine destinée à être employée dans les champs de coton pour élaguer les plantes quand elles commencent à pousser.

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M. J. FRITS, l'intelligent éditeur français qui a publié tant d'ouvrages scientifiques et industriels, vient de faire paraître un nouvel ouvrage de M. F. HERBET qui a pour titre: "Manuel de culture pratique et commerciale du caoutchouc." Nul livre jusqu'ici n'avait, sous un format aussi commode, disposé de façon plus claire, plus méthodique, plus rationnelle, traité les questions de production, de culture, de récolte et d'appropriation de la gomme, dès à présent indispensable aux industriels.

L'ouvrage se divise en trois parties, dont la première a pour objet la revue des diverses espèces d'arbres producteurs et la désignation de l'espèce la plus pratique à cultiver selon la situation géographique des terrains de culture.

La deuxième partie traite des divers modes d'entailler les arbres pour en recueillir le latex.

Le Chapitre IV surtout, par sa nouveauté, en est intéressant; l'auteur s'y étend longuement sur les diverses façons de coaguler et d'aseptiser les latex; il énumère les diverses substances à employer pour obtenir un résultat satisfaisant.

Sous le litre "Résumé pratique," le Chapitre V donne tous les renseignements nécessaires pour l'installation et l'exploitation rationnelle d'une culture d'arbres à caoutchouc.

La troisième partie a pour objet l'étude des pays producteurs et de leur commerce.

L'auteur termine ce volume en donnant des indications précieuses et pratiques pour l'analyse rapide des latex et des caoutchoucs, des formules de colles caoutchoutées, notamment celles employées pour les pneumatiques des vélocipèdes.

La "Magazine McClure" contient dans son numéro du mois de décembre un article illustré par "RAY STANNARD BAKER," intitulé: "Le Mou-

vement du blé." Ce sujet s'occupe d'une manière toute particulière des lieux de production, de la quantité des grains récoltés, des machines, des méthodes de distribution et de la rapidité de la consommation. L'auteur dit qu'l y a à présent environ 517,000,000 consommateurs de pain dans le monde entier et que chacun d'eux—hommes, femmes et enfants—consomme en moyenne un baril de farine (4½ boisseaux de blé) tous les ans. Les Français, les Anglais et les habitants des Etats-Unis consomment plus que la moyenne. En prenant cette moyenne comme base, 2,300,000,000 boisseaux de blé sont nécessaires chaque année pour faire face à cette consommation. "Quand les champs de blé du monde entier produisent cette quantité, il y a partout de l'abondance et de la prospérité; quand la production est moindre, il y a de la souffrance et de la disette." La Grande-Bretagne consomme toute sa récolte de blé en 13 semaines. Si on pouvait faire un blocus complet du Royaume-Uni, sa population serait à coup sûr complètement détruite par la famine dans l'espace de trois mois. Il en est de même pour tous les pays de l'Europe occidentale.

Le grand mouvement d'exportation des blés provient des Etats-Unis, de la République Argentine et du Chili, tout en étant un peu moindre pour ces deux dernières contrées. Tout ce blé se dirige à l'est et au nord dans les grandes villes du Vieux Monde. La Chine, qui jusqu'ici s'était contentée d'un régime de riz, a éprouvé dernièrement le besoin de goûter la farine de blé, et si tous ses habitants mangeaient le pain de farine, elle pourrait, à elle seule, consommer toute la récolte actuelle du monde, et malgré cela serait encore affamée. Pour faire face à ses besoins, l'Europe ne produit jamais assez de blé, même en comptant les récoltes des vastes plaines de la Russie. Si, par hasard, un conflit venait à éclater entre les Etats-Unis et l'Europe coalisée, le premier pays pourrait, par la simple cessation du mouvement d'exportation des blés, contribuer en grande partie à remporter la victoire.

Il n'y a que cinq pays en Europe dont la production de blé dépasse la consommation. Ce sont la Russie, la Hongrie, la Servie, la Bulgarie et la Roumanie, mais l'excédent de leur production ne pourrait suffire qu'à la Hollande, la Belgique, la Scandinavie et la Suisse. Les Etats-Unis avec leurs énormes récoltes sont devenus, par conséquent, le pays le plus commerçant du monde. Les statistiques suivantes peuvent donner une idée de ce qu'on exige des Etats-Unis: Pour nourrir 74,000,000 personnes (population estimée en 1899) à 4½ boisseaux chacune, il faut 333,000,000 boisseaux; pour l'ensemencement de 47,000,000 acres en blé, à 1½ boisseaux l'acre, 70,500,000 boisseaux sont nécessaires, soit un grand total de 403,500,000 boisseaux. L'article de M. BAKER renferme une grande quantité de faits et de chiffres arrangés de façon à instruire le lecteur tout en l'intéressant, même s'il n'est pas captivé par l'importance du sujet.

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